

Pablo Picasso, *The Painter*, 1934.  
Oil on Canvas. The Ella Gallup Sumner and Mary  
Catlin Sumner Collection Fund, 1953.215.

## Upcoming Avery 90 Program

**Sunday Serenades: Avery 90** with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra  
Sunday, May 19, 2pm

*The Docent Memorial Lecture is generously supported by  
the Docent Council of the Wadsworth Atheneum.  
Additional support for this program is provided by the  
Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation Fund at  
the Wadsworth Atheneum.*

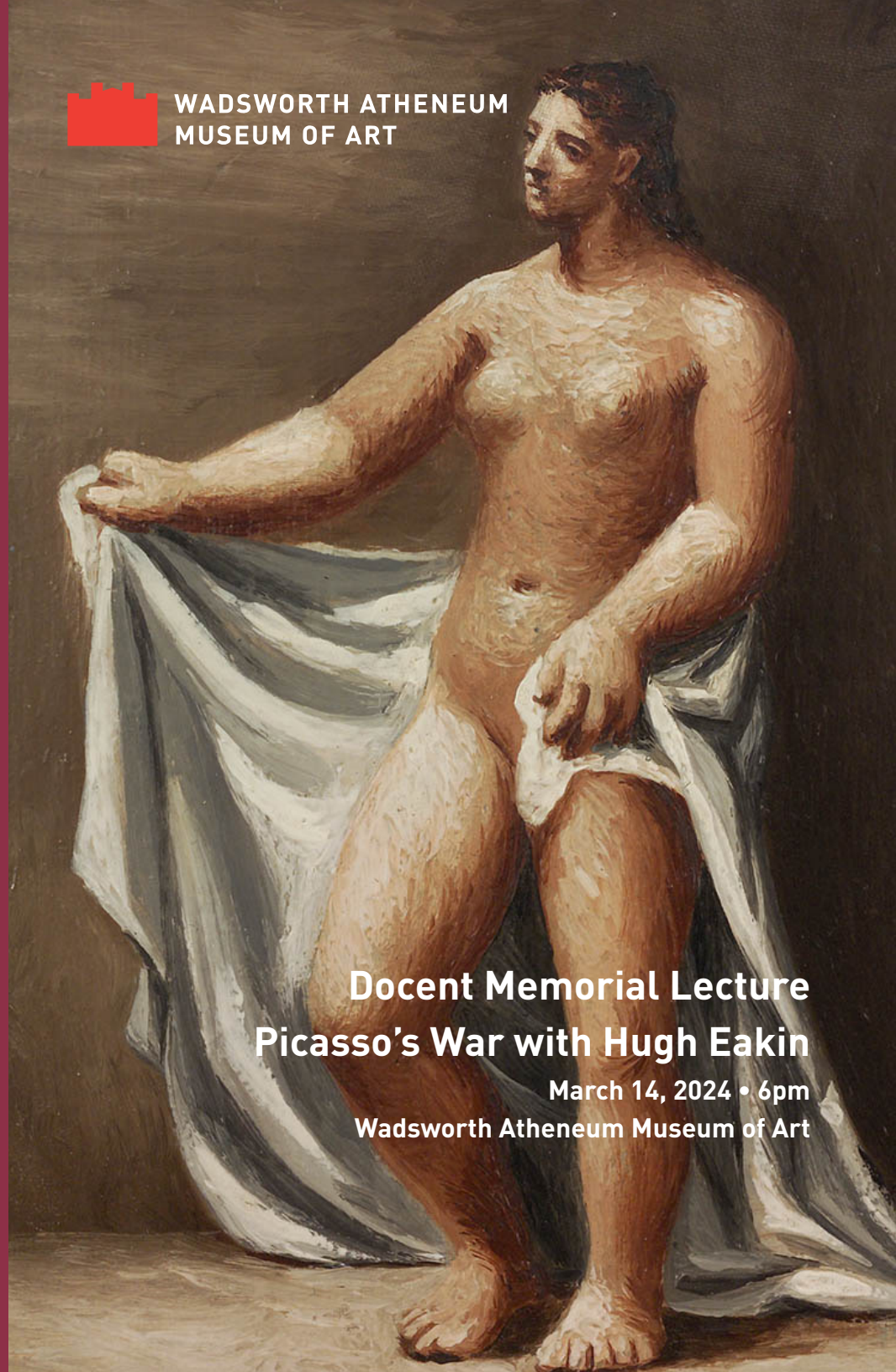
**Front Cover:** Detail of Pablo Picasso, *The Bather*, 1922. Oil on  
panel. The Ella Gallup Sumner and Mary Catlin Sumner  
Collection Fund, 1931.198.



WADSWORTH ATHENEUM  
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## Docent Memorial Lecture Picasso's War with Hugh Eakin

March 14, 2024 • 6pm  
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

# Docent Memorial Lecture

## Picasso's War with Hugh Eakin

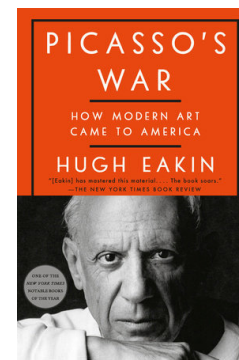
March 14, 2024 • 6pm • Avery Theater, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Pablo Picasso (1881–1973) is unquestionably one of the most recognized figures in art of the twentieth century. Yet despite being firmly established in Europe, his work was not widely appreciated in the United States well into the 1930s. Author Hugh Eakin's recent book *Picasso's War: How Modern Art Came to America* (2022) follows the stories of John Quinn (1870–1924), an American lawyer and prolific art collector, and Alfred H. Barr, Jr. (1902–1981), an art historian and founding director of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and their efforts to bring Picasso's work to this country. Eakin's book focuses on MoMA's 1939 exhibition, *Picasso: Forty Years of His Art*, detailing the exhibition's impact in firmly establishing Picasso in the United States and helping to shape American tastes for Modern Art. Eakin also dedicates an entire chapter to an earlier exhibition organized at the Wadsworth Atheneum. Preceding the MoMA exhibition by five years, the Wadsworth's exhibition, *Pablo Picasso*, was organized by then director Arthur Everett "Chick" Austin, Jr. (1900–1957) to coincide with the opening of the Avery Memorial building. The exhibition at the Wadsworth, though less widely known, was the first comprehensive retrospective of Picasso's work at a museum in this country and played a vital role in bringing Picasso's work to a new audience. Tonight, Eakin traces the journey of Picasso's work across the Atlantic, reflects on the Wadsworth's 1934 exhibition, and positions these stories within the context of the arrival of Modernism in the United States.



**Above:** Installation view of the exhibition, *Pablo Picasso*, February 1934. Photograph Collection, RG9\_1\_F4022, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art Archives, Hartford, CT.

## About the Lecturer



**Hugh Eakin**, a senior editor at *Foreign Affairs*, has written about museums and the art world for *The New York Review of Books*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times*. He is the author of *Picasso's War: How Modern Art Came to America* (Crown, 2022) which details how the groundbreaking 1939 exhibition, *Picasso: Forty Years of His Art* at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, irrevocably changed American taste, and in doing so

saved dozens of the twentieth century's most enduring artworks from the Nazis.

## Docent Memorial Lecture

A docent is a volunteer museum educator who engages visitors in interactive discussions about art. Docents welcome thousands of Wadsworth Atheneum visitors every year from communities in the surrounding area, states near and far, and countries around the world. They lead tours for pre-K to grade 12 students, college students, adults, and families. Docents are valued as teachers and work collaboratively with the museum's Department of Learning and Engagement. Formed in 1968, the Docent Council supports the approximately 50 current docents at the museum. The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art Docent Council Memorial Fund was established many years ago as a way to honor docents and their loved ones who have passed. The generous donations to this fund support a Docent Memorial Lecture and general docent education. The Lecture is presented on an annual basis to docents and the public, free of charge.

### This year's lecture honors and remembers the following docents:

Elizabeth Jacob, Anne Richardson Johnson, Lillian Kezerian,  
Nancy Mangini, and Sandy Voice

## Avery 90

In 1934, the Avery Memorial at the Wadsworth Atheneum opened as the first museum building in the United States with an International Style interior. It also placed the presentation of visual art, film, and performance on equal footing through its inclusion of a theater and related programming. *Avery 90* is a suite of programs celebrating and reflecting on the building's 90th anniversary, its architectural importance, and its forward-thinking history of programming and performance. Visit [thewadsworth.org/avery90](http://thewadsworth.org/avery90) to learn more about upcoming *Avery 90* programs.

**Above:** Hugh Eakin, photograph by Aaron Lavinsky;  
Cover, *Picasso's War: How Modern Art Came to America* [Crown, 2022].