

AIA launches lecture series on "The Roaring (19)20s"

by Natasha Kolchevska, Ph.D., series coordinator

Women's suffrage, speakeasies, *The Great Gatsby*, flappers and jazz and film celebrities, the cult of the outré and the exotic--these are our images of the unique decade that began in 1920 and ended with the Crash of 1929. Beginning in major metropolises in the United States and Europe such as New York, Berlin and Paris, the push to break with traditions and norms left its mark on society and culture.

To mark the 100th anniversary of that dynamic decade--and to present a more nuanced and complex picture of the outstanding cultural phenomena that have left their imprint on the rest of the 20th and into the 21st centuries--the Albuquerque International Association will sponsor a series of monthly lectures on the second Sunday of the month at Pearl Hall Auditorium (School of Architecture), UNM campus. Lectures will focus on art and design, popular and high-brow entertainment, cinema, dance and the intersections of race and these realms. As always, lectures will be illuminating and amply illustrated.

Fueled by the economic prosperity and rapid industrial growth that followed the end of World War I, during the 1920s the US turned from isolationism to internationalism, from traditionalism to experimentation, and to a dynamic eagerness to lead in the transformation of Western civilization. Mobility, practicality, using technology to make art more available to the masses, merging art and technology--all of these were key features of the "zeitgeist" or "spirit of the times." This affected all realms of culture on both sides of "the Pond," and the AIA series will feature lectures on art and design, race relations, women and fashion, classical music and jazz, dance, art and cinema.

The series will begin on January 12 with UNM Art Professor **Susanne Reidel's** talk, ***The Bauhaus: Art and Design for the Future***. The Bauhaus was one of the most innovative, interdisciplinary and influential art movements of the 20th century. Artists from international backgrounds came together to shape not only a new way of making art but of living. Established in Germany in 1919 and closed by the Nazis in 1933, the actual movement was short-lived, but its principles continue to affect art education and architectural practice in both Europe and the United States.

The following lecture, on Sunday, February 9, by UNM History Professor **Tiffany Florvil**, will focus on ***Josephine Baker: A Black Venus in Europe***. Baker was an American-born French cabaret star, a French Resistance agent, and a civil rights activist. Her career was centered primarily in Europe, mostly in her adopted France.

Spring lectures will focus on fashion historian Cassidy Zachary's talk on ***Pioneering Women Designers of the 1920s*** (March 8--International Women's Day); UNM Emeritus Music Professor **Karl Hinterbichler's** talk on ***Jazz Meets Classical Music*** (April 5); and a presentation by **Eric Newton**--who has danced with the Martha Graham and National Ballet of Netherlands) on ***Les Ballets Russes*** (May 10).

The summer series will focus on art, beginning on June 14 with Dr. **Marina Oborotova's** talk on ***Impressionists and Post-Impressionists in Russia and the Soviet Union***, followed by UNM Emerita Professor **Natasha Kolchevska's** talk on ***The European and Russian Avant-Gardes*** on July 12, and **Ann Harris Davidson**, speaking on ***Monet's Giverny in the 1920s and Beyond*** on August 9.

For the fall, lectures will address cinema, art and music, beginning with UNM German Professor **Katrin Schroeter's** lecture on ***Innovations in European Cinema***, UNM Emeritus French Professor **Walter Putnam** on ***Dada/Surrealism*** and UNM Professor of French **Pim Higginson** rounding out the series with his talk on ***Jazz, Race and the French Avant-garde***.

The Roaring 20s experience will culminate with the Albuquerque International Association Gala “The Roaring 20s!” on November 1, where you will be able to enjoy and practice things that you’ve learned from the series.

Please join us for what promises to be an exciting and informative experience!!