

Additional Resources:

This program, slideshow and links below can be found at Rosenberg Library
www.rosenberg-library.org

For additional web resources, please visit:

www.johnsingersargent.org

Website with a complete catalog and images of all of Sargent's works

www.sargentmurals.bpl.org

A history and images of Sargent's murals at the Boston Public Library

<http://www.metmuseum.org/collections/search-the-collections?ft=charles+worth>

Couture gowns designed by Charles Worth in the Met Collection

www.ameliemag.com

New Orleans-based arts and fashion magazine inspired by Amélie Gautreau

BOOKS BY DEBORAH DAVIS

Strapless: John Singer Sargent and the Fall of Madame X

Party of the Century: The Fabulous Story of Truman Capote and His Black-and-White Ball

Gilded: How Newport Became America's Richest Resort

Guest of Honor: Booker T. Washington, Theodore Roosevelt, and the White House Dinner that Shocked a Nation

The Oprah Winfrey Show: Reflections on an American Legacy

The Secret Lives of Frames: 100 Years of Art and Artistry

OTHER INTERESTING TIDBITS...

The Avegno House in the French Quarter where Amélie Gautrea was born and raised was recently sold in a bankruptcy auction for \$1.9 million (less than half of what the owners paid for it in 2007). A 2-bedroom apartment on its third floor is currently listed for lease on Craigslist for \$4,000 / month.

<http://gilmoreauction.com/madame-x-mansion-sells-at-bankruptcy-auction-for-1980000/>



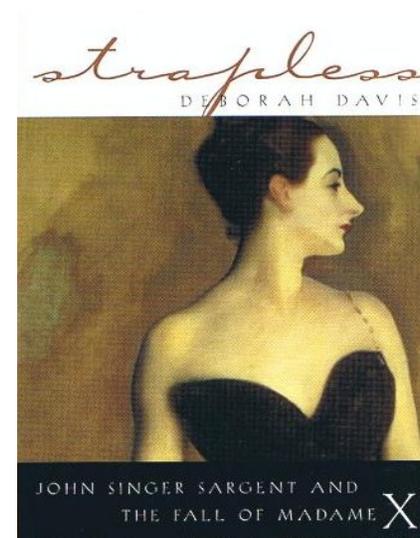
ROSENBERG LIBRARY
MUSEUM BOOK CLUB
WINTER 2012-2013

December 12, 2012

12:00 noon—1:00pm

PROGRAM AGENDA

12:00 noon	Welcome & Introductions
12:00-12:15	Art & Artifact Presentation
12:15-1:00	Open Discussion



Rosenberg Library's
Museum Book Club provides
a forum for discovery and
discussion, linking literary
selections with art from our
permanent collection.

MUSEUM BOOK CLUB
The Intersection of Art & Literature.



Discuss. Discover.



Books on beauty were extremely popular when Amélie was coming of age.

**“There is no falsehood in it...
What is life,
what is love,
without illusion.” ~pg. 49**

Cameo glass perfume atomizer and powder box designed by Emile Galle, late 19th century
(Gift of the Estate of Frances A. Mattei)

Satin bridal shoes and beaded purse, late 19th century
(Gifts of the Estate of Mrs. Z.L. White and of the Morgan Family)

“Once a young woman was safely married and protected by her husband’s good name, she could start breaking the rules...” ~pg. 37



**“Her sleek and simple gown looks elegant today, but its close fit would have suggested to late 19th century viewers that Amélie was not wearing her petticoat, a crucial piece of underwear that any proper young woman would have worn religiously.”
~pg. 171**

Corset and petticoat, late 19th century
(Gifts of the Estate of Elsa Reymershoffer and of Lise Darst)

“I suppose... it is the best thing I have done.” ~pg. 236

(Sargent describing his painting of Madame X in a letter to the director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1915.)



Lady in Evening Dress
Portrait by Bettie Brown, 1883
(Gift of Mrs. Henry Jumonville)

Discussion...Beauty

Davis spends much time discussing the time in which Amélie was coming of age, describing the pursuit of beauty as a French national pastime.

How do you think this shaped Amélie's view of the world and of herself? How did it influence writers and artists? Consider the beauty objects on display from the museum collection. Has beauty always been an issue for women in general and women in art in particular?

Discussion...Marriage

Compare the lives of married women and single women in the late nineteenth century.

How was marriage different for women in Europe than for women in the United States?

Discussion...1884 Salon

Discuss the fallout of the 1884 Salon. Why was John Singer Sargent able to bounce back after the infamous flop while Amélie Gautreau never quite recovered her social status?

How did their lives / personalities / social standing change afterward?

Discussion...Knowing the Artist

Was John Singer Sargent a starving artist or a shrewd businessman? Davis spends much of the book discussing him, but do you walk away from the book knowing who he was?

To appreciate a piece of art work, what do you want to know about the artist? The model?