

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE FRESNO

NEWSLETTER

Avril 2011



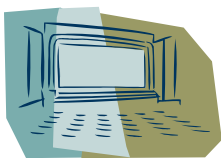
The Délégation Générale de l'Alliance Française in the U.S., the Alliance Française de Fresno and the Fresno Art Museum are delighted to announce A PRESENTATION IN ENGLISH BY *Philippe Walter*

Beyond the Appearance of Works of Art: The Chemist's View
Wednesday, April 13, Reception at 6:00 PM, Lecture at 7:00 PM
Fresno Art Museum, 2233 N. First St

Free entry to Alliance Française and Fresno Art Museum members, Entry fee of \$10 for all others, Please note: Space is limited! First come! First served!

Dr. Philippe Walter is laboratory director of the Center for Research and Restoration of the Museums of France (CNRS-Ministry of Culture), located in Paris in the Louvre. His research is aimed at developing new analytical methods adapted to the study of ancient materials, with the assistance of the AGLAE particle accelerator in his laboratory but also with x-rays from other important scientific installations (synchrotron) and portable analytical instruments. His main research interest is focused on the use of analytical chemistry in order to understand the development of chemistry for health and beauty during Antiquity and the creation of new painting materials, for instance, during the Renaissance period. An alumnus of the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Lyon, he went on to earn a PhD in geochemistry from the Université Paul Sabatier in Toulouse in 1993. He has organized several exhibitions at the Egyptian museum in Cairo (2002) and in Paris (2008) promoting his work. He has been a research scientist at the CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research) since 1995 and received the CNRS silver medal in 2008.

The association between chemistry and art is nothing new. Since Antiquity, new products have been developed to prepare pigments used in the fields of art, cosmetics and health. During the Renaissance, artists looked for optical effects in preparing translucent glazes from complicated recipes. Today, the technical know-how of the ancient chemists and artists can be rediscovered with analytical tools from physical chemistry. The priceless nature of the most famous works of history requires, however, particular precautions and the adjustment of methods providing the maximum amount of information from the minimum sample (if in fact any can be found). We will illustrate these activities with examples concerning ancient Egypt and Leonardo da Vinci.



Fresno Film Works
French Film: L'illusionniste (The Illusionist)
Saturday, April 2, 8 PM

L' Illusionniste, cosponsored by Fresno Film Works and *L'Alliance Française de Fresno*, will screen as part of the Fresno Film at Tower Theatre. From Sylvain Chomet, the director of *Les Triplettes de Belleville*, this animated French comedy was nominated for the Best Animated Feature award at both the 2011 Oscars and 2011 Golden Globes. The film is based on an unproduced script written by French mime, director and actor Jacques Tati in 1956. It tells the story of The Illusionist, one of a dying breed of stage entertainers. With rock stars stealing his thunder in the late 1950s, he is forced to accept obscure assignments in fringe theatres, at garden parties, and in bars and cafés. He then meets an awe-struck young girl who believes his tricks are real magic. Tickets cost \$10 general, \$8 students and seniors. For details, visit www.fresnofilmworks.org.

FRENCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

On Saturday, May 7, the World Language Fair will be held at Sanger High School from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. More than 4,000 Valley high school students will compete in different foreign language events. French-speaking volunteers are needed to serve as judges, referees, fortune tellers, passport inspectors, pétanque instructors, etc. Please consider volunteering to help for a few hours. Contact Sharon Farley at MMESHAZZY@aol.com, Bruce Babcock at babcockfrance@cs.com or Angelique Tovar at angelique_tovar@sanger.k12.ca.us



Orpheus Chamber Music Ensemble Concerts include important works by two French composers:

Sunday, April 3, 5 PM: Guest vocalist Helene Joseph-Weil, and friends, performs Manuel de Falla, *Concert pour clavecin*, Charles Loeffler, *Deux rhapsodies*, Johannes Brahms, *Zwei Leider*, Claudio Monteverdi, *Lamento de Arianna*, and Brad Hufft, *Two Songs for Moonlight*, and Claude Debussy, *Sonate pour flûte, alto et harpe* (1915), the first chamber work composed for flute, viola and harp is considered a masterpiece inspired by the grace, clarity and restraint of the 18th century French composers Rameau and Couperin.

Sunday, May 8, 5 PM. Russian pianist Natasha Kislenko plays David Diamond, *Rounds for String Orchestra*, Dmitri Shostakovich, *Piano Concerto No. 1*, and Camille Saint-Saens' *Septuor pour piano, trompette, et cordes* (1881), or Septet for trumpet, piano, string quartet, and double bass. This work is regarded by some critics as one of Saint-Saëns' greatest works.

These concerts are both scheduled at California State University Fresno in the Wahlberg Recital Hall. Old Music Building. Parking at Fresno State is free and unrestricted on Sundays.

FRENCH CLASSES: The Spring Session for adults and children will begin the first week of April. Courses will be offered at all levels and for all ages. Contact School Directress Odette Cohen for adult classes (435-3285) or Micheline Curnyn for Children's classes (435-5532) or email mcohen@fresno.ucsf.edu or mcurnyn@comcast.net.



CAFÉS DE L'ALLIANCE

The Cafés de l'Alliance meet for conversation in French every Thursday from 3:30-5:00 PM. On the 2nd Thursday of the month we meet from 3:30-6:00 PM. We meet at La Boulangerie in Fig Garden Village. Please join us.

Coming Events

April 2: French Film, *L'illusionniste*, 8 PM, Tower Theatre

April 3: Orpheus Concert, 5 PM, CSUF, Wahlberg Recital Hall. Old Music Building

April 13: Lecture in English, Philippe Walter, *Beyond the appearance of works of art: the chemist's view*
Fresno Art Museum, reception 6 PM., lecture 7 PM

May 8: Orpheus Concert, 5 PM, CSUF, Wahlberg Recital Hall. Old Music Building

July 10: Bastille Day Festivities, 6:30 PM

September/October TBA: Prudence Zalewski, *French Wine Pairings*