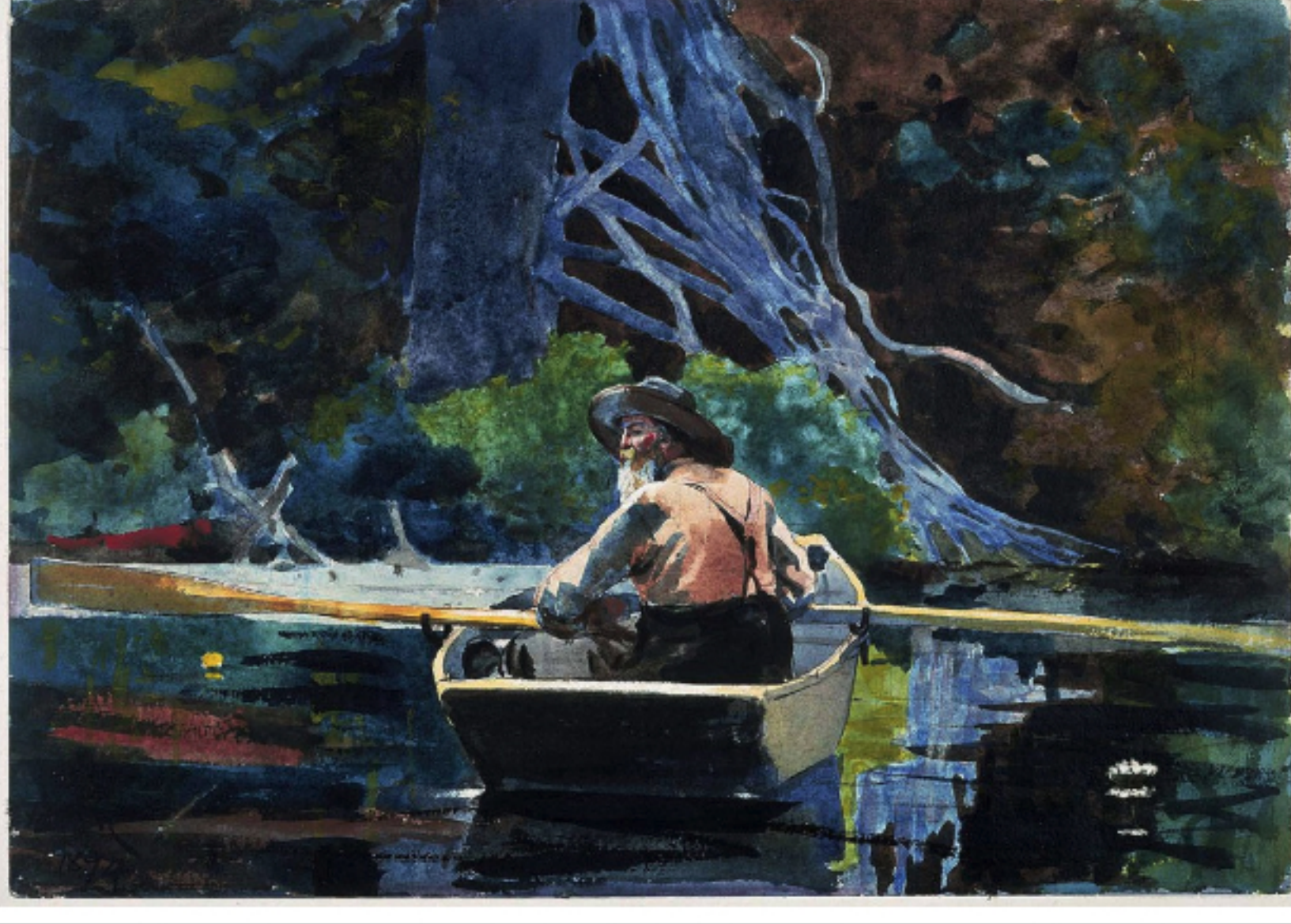


A Liberating Arts Happy Hour

SEI: HOUSTON



Samuel + Erasmus institute
ideas • conversation • friendship

A SEI HAPPY HOUR

Our next SEi Happy Hour for men, on Thursday, February 22, will convene at another Houston landmark: Hearsay Gastro Lounge at 218 Travis Street, upper level.

We shall continue with one of our last discussions on that persistent issue of happiness. In particular, we will briefly discuss its relation to various forms and experiences of love—such as affirmation, friendship, and desire. Does the way we love affect our perception? Does it blind, possibly *enlight*...enable such things as insight and lofty down-to-earth contemplation? (Or is all that just fool's play?)

Our prime matter will be a discussion of a short poem by Wendell Berry. All sorts of things may no doubt follow.

Please RSVP as space will be limited.

Also, if you desire to bring a special bottle of vino—feel free, they'll just charge us a small corkage fee.

The suggested contribution for this event is \$35.

Hope to see you!

Jeff

P.S. See links below for books.

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The Samuel & Erasmus institute's *Liberating Arts Happy Hour* seminars employ the liberal arts for occasions of liberating refreshment and for the development of some of the most vital qualities of a leader: perception and judgment.

In the spirit of SEi's namesakes~the maverick humanists and writers, Erasmus of Rotterdam and Samuel Clemens~these seminars have a disarming spirit of conversation, friendship, and the daring to creatively wrestle with some of life's deeper questions.

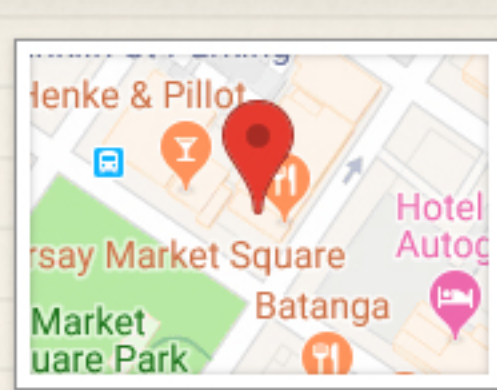
For the sake of a lively dynamic of exchange and, no doubt, fresh insight, we keep the number of participants limited. Please RSVP.

Above painting: *The Adirondack Guide* by Winslow Homer

## A LIBERATING ARTS HAPPY HOUR

**WHEN**  
THURSDAY, FEB. 22ND, 5:30-7:15PM

**WHERE**  
218 TRAVIS STREET  
HOUSTON, TX



[Get Directions](#)



## PONDERINGS IN LOVE, SEEING & HAPPINESS...

*...man, as a reasoning being, desires his own happiness just as the falling stone "seeks" the depths, as the flower turns to the light and the beast hunts its prey.*

*Happiness is essentially a gift; we are not the forgers of our own felicity.*

*Any human being who is happy shares in a happiness that is not of himself.*

*...even the smallest happiness is like a step out of Time...*

*"Felicity must consist in man's attainment of the uttermost degree of being real." (Aquinas)*

*Love is the indispensable premise of happiness. (However, it must also be said that if one does not love one cannot be unhappy. For the essence of unhappiness is the failure to possess what one loves...)*

*...the fulfillment of existence takes place in the manner in which we become aware of reality; the whole energy of our being is ultimately directed toward attainment of insight.*

*It may very well be, however, that the power of seeing itself is only stirred to full realization by love.*

*...the vital function of the arts in man's life, consists above all in this: that through them contemplation of the created world is kept active and alive.*

*...loving knowledge, seeing the beloved object, is the essence of contemplation.*

*"Where love is, there is the eye." (Aquinas)*

*~ Josef Pieper from Happiness & Contemplation*



**SAMUEL & ERASMUS INSTITUTE**

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*SEi is a federal 501 (c) (3) tax exempt public charity. Donations are tax deductible.*

GIVE LIGHT, AND THE DARKNESS WILL DISAPPEAR OF ITSELF. ~ ERASMUS