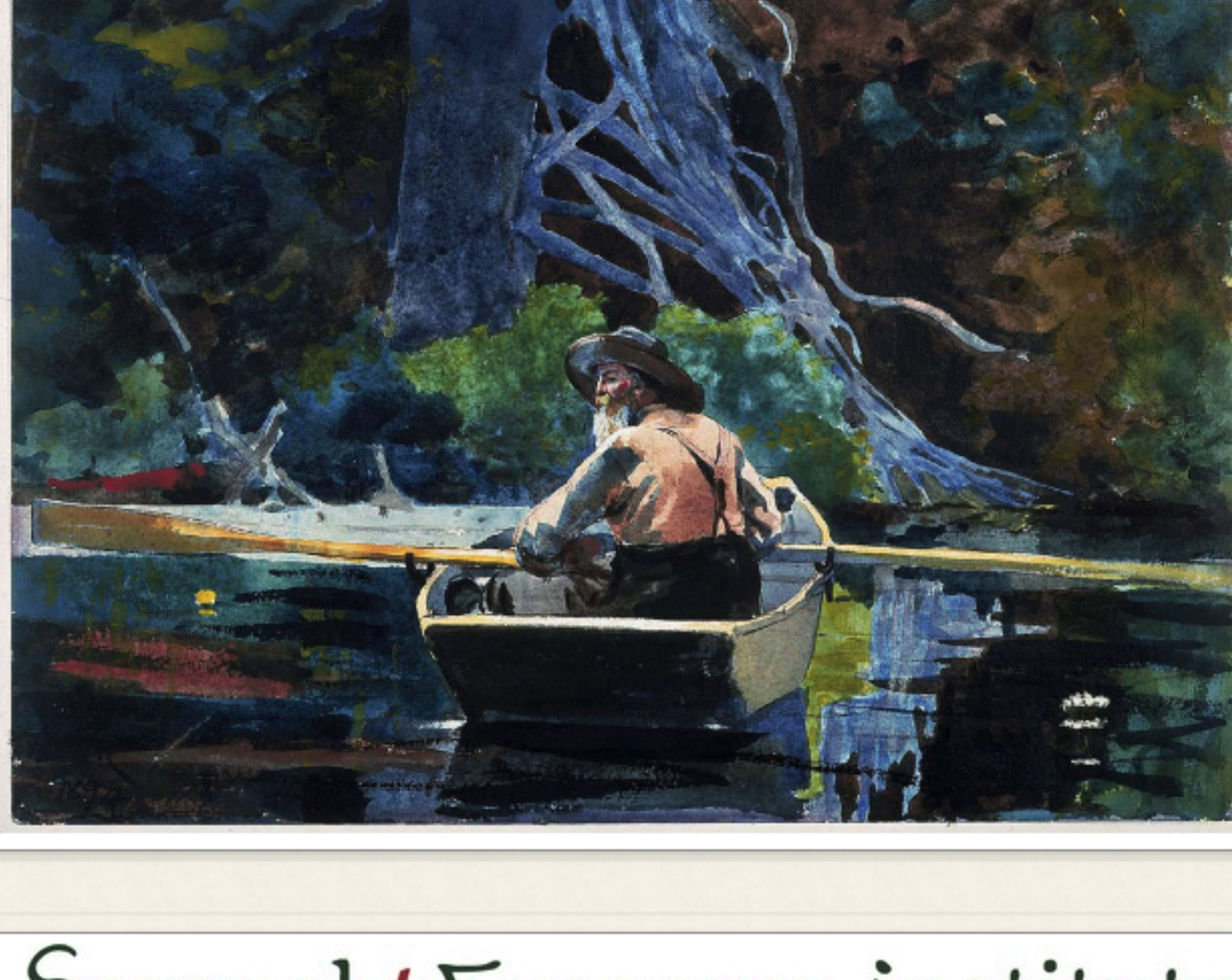


# Erascible Sam & Folly Society

SEI: PRINCETON



## Samuel + Erasmus institute

ideas • conversation • friendship

### A PILOT EVENT: ART, FESTIVITY, & SEEING REALITY

Greetings and Happy Easter!

You are invited to join us for a SEi Pilot Event on Saturday, April 7, beginning at 2:00. It is a gathering of students and a time for interesting conversation, friendship, and perhaps, just maybe, inspiration.

While fluid and relaxed in manner, we'll briefly explore some of the deeper ideas of festivity and art, especially as they relate to perceiving reality and liberation. Primarily, we will read and discuss a challenging (strange and fun) short story by Flannery O'Connor.

No advanced reading is necessary. *Please RSVP.*

Hope to see you!

Miguel, Andre, and Joaquim

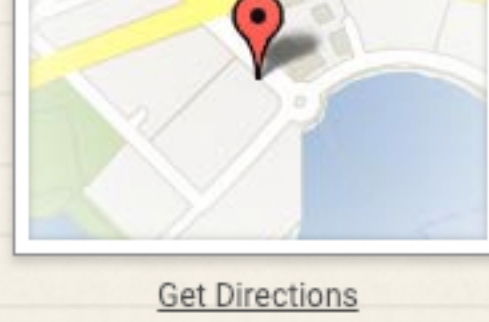
Above painting: *The Adirondack Guide* by Winslow Homer



### SEI PILOT EVENT: ART, FESTIVITY & SEEING REALITY

**WHEN**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 7TH, 2-4:30PM

**WHERE**  
1915 ROOM, PRINCETON



[Get Directions](#)



*All novelists are fundamentally seekers and describers of the real, but the realism of each novelist will depend on his view of the ultimate reaches of reality.*

*The writer operates at a peculiar crossroads where time and place and eternity somehow meet. His problem is to find that location.*

*I have heard it said that belief in Christian dogma is a hindrance to the writer, but I myself have found nothing further from the truth. Actually, it frees the storyteller to observe. It is not a set of rules which fixes what he sees in the world. It affects his writing primarily by guaranteeing his respect for mystery.*

~ Flannery O'Connor from *Mystery & Manners*

### PONDERINGS IN ART, FESTIVITY & LIBERATION...

*The Trick is not to arrange a festival, but to find people who can enjoy it. (F. Nietzsche)*

*This is that life above all others which man should live, in the contemplation of divine beauty; this makes man immortal. (Plato)*

*Whenever anyone succeeds in bringing before his mind's eye the hidden ground of everything that is, he succeeds to the same degree in performing an act that is meaningful in itself, and has a "good time."*

*...perhaps the only way for art to be completely itself and to arrive "autonomously" at its most essential goal: the praise of Creation. For in that, above all, the arts and festivity join hands; both are nourished by affirmation of Creation.*

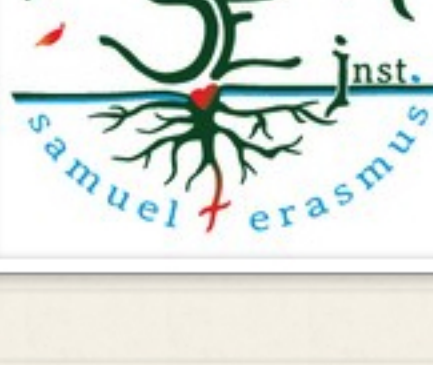
*...only the lover sings; without love we cannot expect song...And insofar as tragedy...as well as even the most unsparing satire, rightfully deserve the proud name of true works of art, they necessarily draw their vitality from consent to the true reality.*

*...the concept of festivity is inconceivable without an element of contemplation. This does not mean exerting the argumentative intellect, but the "simple intuition" of reason; not the unrest of thought, but the mind's eye resting on whatever manifests itself. It means a relaxing of the strenuous fixation of the eye on the given frame of reference, without which no utilitarian act is accomplished. Instead, the field of vision widens, concern for success or failure of an act falls away, and the soul turns to its infinite object; it becomes aware of the illimitable horizon of reality as a whole.*

*...one must engage in a listening, and therefore necessarily silent, meditation upon the fundament of existence.*

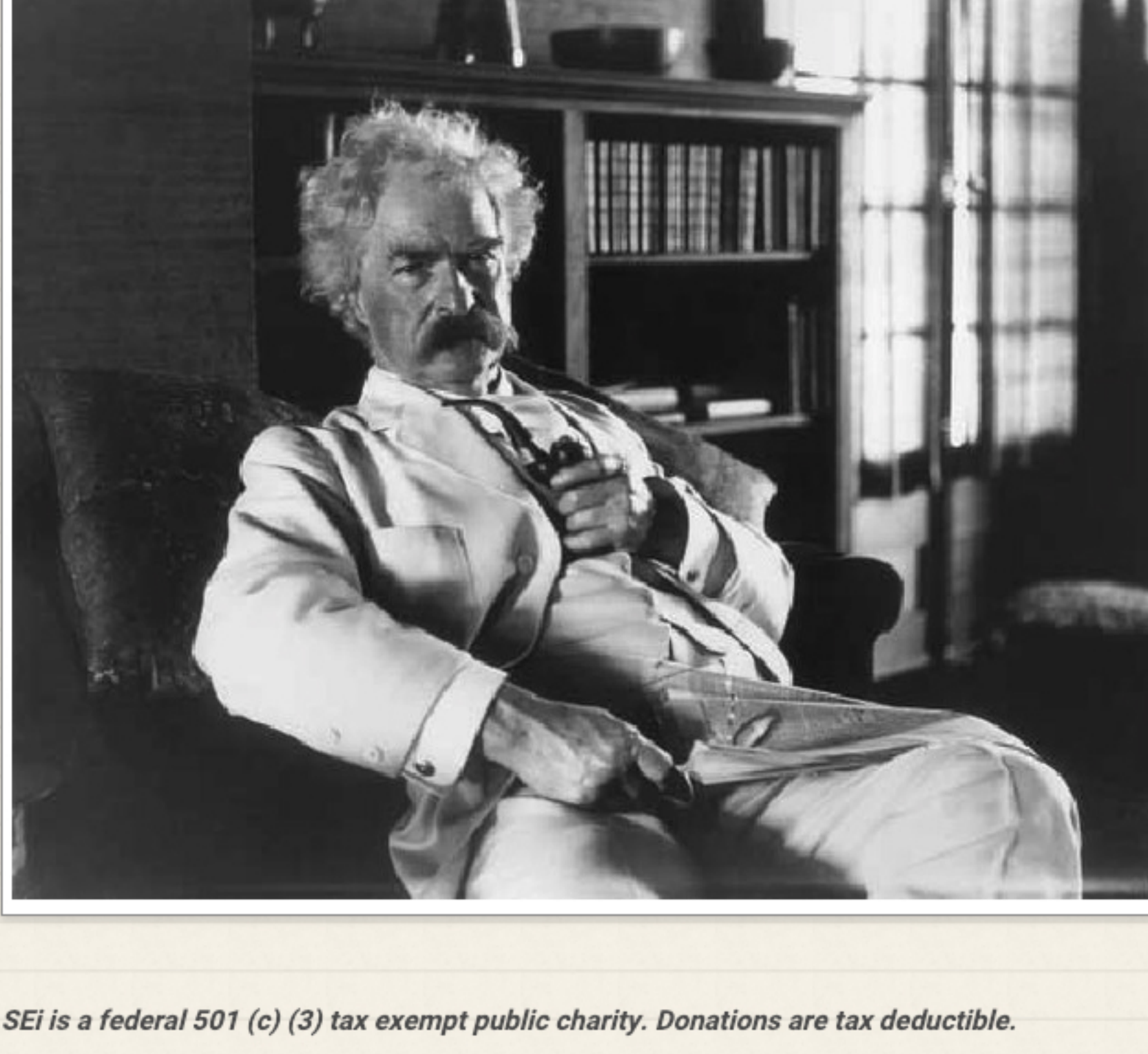
*The achievement of contemplation, since it is the seeing, the intuition of the beloved object, presupposes a specific non-intellectual, direct, and existential relation to reality, an existential concord of man with the world and with himself.*

~ Josef Pieper from *In Tune with the World: a theory of festivity*



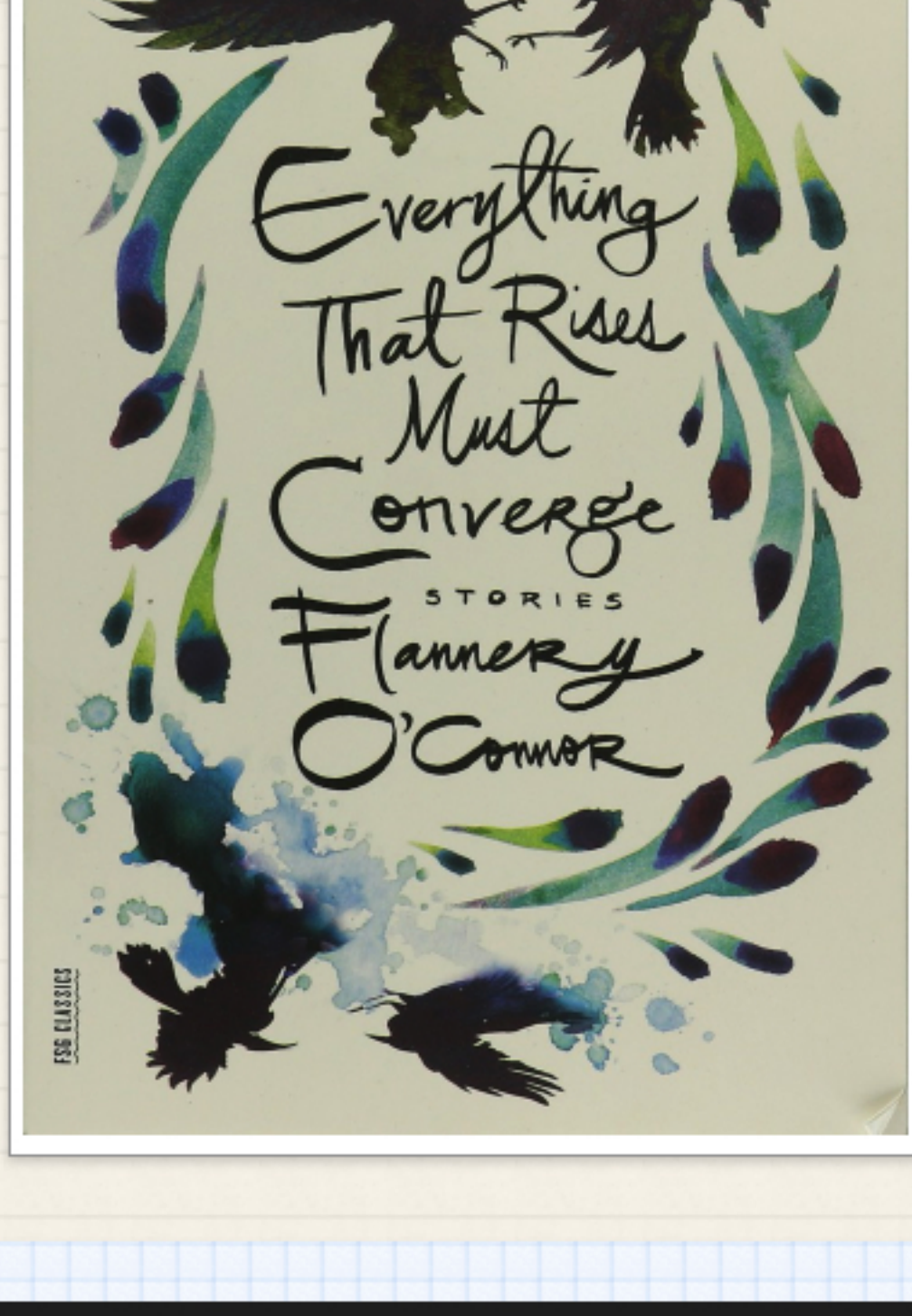
## SAMUEL & ERASMUS INSTITUTE

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



Everything That Rises Must Converge: tales by Flannery

In Tune with the World: a theory of festivity