



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Unicorn Tapestries and the Art and Life of Norman Rockwell

New Braunfels, TX – Art Historian Julie Agar will present two talks on art subjects at the New Braunfels Public Library next week. On Wednesday, May 13th at 7 p.m., Agar will discuss the Unicorn Tapestries currently on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. On Thursday, May 14th at 7 p.m., she will discuss the life and work of the artist and illustrator Norman Rockwell.

The Unicorn Tapestries are among the most popular attractions at The Cloisters, which houses part of the Metropolitan Museum's splendid collection from medieval Europe. Little is known about their early history, though the seven hangings are thought to have been designed in Paris and woven in Brussels (then part of the Netherlands) from 1495–1505, and might have originally come from several sets. They are among the most beautiful and complex works of art to survive from the Middle Ages.

Norman Rockwell's iconic paintings from the early and mid-20th-century include some of the most recognizable and familiar images of daily life in America ever put on canvas. Rockwell's work, brimming with optimism and joy, showed the bright side of life in America during times of hardship in the Great Depression and during World War II. His popular paintings graced the cover of the *Saturday Evening Post* for years. Julie Agar will share her insight into the life and work of Rockwell, and will offer her views on the controversial recent biography *American Mirror: the Life and Art of Norman Rockwell* by Deborah Solomon.

“We're thrilled that Julie Agar will return to the library to share her knowledge of the magnificent Unicorn Tapestries and her insights into the work of such an important American artist as Norman Rockwell,” said Library Director Gretchen Pruett. “These programs will fascinate and inspire art enthusiasts.”

For more information about this event contact Alix Samuels at 830-221-4316.

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