

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ISABELLA  
SEWART GARDNER  
MUSEUM

Gardner Museum's 2009 *Landscape Visions* Lecture Series Begins January 24th

*Saturday afternoon series features guest speakers on a wide range of horticultural themes- from a Mughal garden to the elaborate water systems of the Rajput Palace Gardens*

Saturdays, January 24<sup>th</sup>, February 21<sup>st</sup>, and March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1:30 PM | Ticketed Events



BOSTON, JANUARY 16, 2009 – Can't shake that winter chill? There's no need to head for southern climes when you can escape to the Gardner Museum. Over the course of three Saturdays from January through March the *Landscape Visions* Lecture Series will transport you out of the snow and slush and into lush, exotic garden paradises; throw into the mix the Gardner's courtyard – our own garden paradise, always in bloom – and you might forget it's winter!

The series kicks off on **January 24<sup>th</sup>** with *Babur and his Gardens*, delving straight into the sumptuous world of the Mughal Empire. **STEPHEN F. DALE**, author of *The Garden of the Eight Paradises*, serves as tour guide for this journey into the world of Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire who built gardens wherever he settled, from Samarkand to Afghanistan to India. Excerpts from Babur's own poetry and autobiography, rich with descriptions of the gardens and nature he loved, inform the lecture.

On **Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>** we return to the Mughal gardens with **JAMES L. WESCOAT**, MIT, who takes us inside recent excavations in Rajasthan that have revealed elaborate water systems, fountains, and pleasure gardens. Wescoat examines the design and innovation of Mughal Gardens and explores how ancient techniques can shed new light on water conservation in the context of a desert garden.

Finally, on **Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>** we're off on another adventure with **ANNA PAVORD** who will share her journey in search of the origins of plant identities. Author of *The Naming of Names* and *The Tulip*, Pavord leads us down the paths of explorers and scientists to illustrate how the culture of Islam preserved and extended the ancient knowledge of plants through the Renaissance.

**Tickets**

\$15 General Public; \$12 Seniors; \$5 Members; FREE for College Students. Lecture tickets include admission to the museum's three floors of galleries, including the special exhibition gallery.

Tickets may be purchased by phone through the museum's box office at 617 278 5156 (open Tues.-Sun., 10am-4pm), online via [www.gardnermuseum.org](http://www.gardnermuseum.org), or in person at the museum's entrance at 280 The Fenway (Tues.-Sun., 11am-4pm). Additional information about museum events, including concerts, is available online and on our Event Information Line at 617 278 5102.

ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM • 280 The Fenway Boston MA 02115 617 566 1401 [www.gardnermuseum.org](http://www.gardnermuseum.org) • Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm • \$12 adults; \$10 seniors; \$5 students; \$2 discount w/ same day Museums of Fine Arts admission; FREE for members, children under 18, and all named Isabella • Modeled after a 15th-century Venetian palazzo with an interior courtyard garden, the Gardner Museum houses a collection of fine art spanning 30 centuries and featuring Titian, Rembrandt, Botticelli, and Sargent, as well as changing contemporary and historic exhibitions, classical concerts, lectures, and special events.

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