

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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**Hermitage Artist Retreat Presents**

**Book Club Meeting with Author Andrea Kleine**

**Wednesday, February 13, 10 a.m.**

**Fridays @ 5: PoetryLife’s Favorite Poem Reading**

**Friday, April 19, 5 p.m.**

**Community members are invited to submit a poem**

**and participate in the reading! Deadline is March 15.**

*Andrea Kleine will discuss her book “Eden,” a novel that follows how a childhood abduction sets two sisters on very different courses. PoetryLife's Favorite Poem Reading moves to the Hermitage Artist Retreat, its new partner venue.*

(Sarasota County) The Hermitage Artist Retreat presents a book club meeting with Andrea Kleine, the author of the novel, *Eden*. Kleine will join the group remotely from New York City, Wednesday, February 13, at 10 a.m., in the Palm House at the Hermitage in Englewood. *Eden* is described as “one of [the] smartest and most innovative thrillers,” and “a page-turner with a moving meditation on the limitations of family amidst trauma” by Vanity Fair. *Reservations for this free program are required and can be requested at www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org. For more information about the Hermitage, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.*

Kleine is also the author of the novel, *Calf*, which was named one of the best books of 2015 by Publishers Weekly. She is a five-time MacDowell Colony Fellow and the recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship. A performance artist, essayist, and novelist, she lives in New York City.

The Hermitage’s Fridays @ 5 series continues with **PoetryLife's Favorite Poem Reading,** Friday, April 19, 5 p.m., on the beach at the Hermitage. The event features poet Melissa Studdard, who is in residence at the Hermitage. Community members can learn more about submitting a poem and applying to be a reader at https://www.sarasotapoetry.com/favorite-poem-project. Deadline to apply is March 15. *Reservations for this free series are required and can be requested at www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org. For more information about the Hermitage, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.*

Studdard is the author of four books, the most recent of which is the poetry collection, *I Ate the Cosmos for Breakfast*. The title poem from this collection was made into a short film by Dan Sickles of Moxie Pictures (for Motionpoems) and featured as an official selection for the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival and the Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival. In addition to writing, Studdard serves as the executive producer and host of VIDA Voices & Views for VIDA: Women in Literary Arts; the president of the Associated Writing Program’s Women’s Caucus; an editor for American Microreviews and Interviews; and a professor for the Lone Star College System. Some of her awards include the Forward National Literature Award, the International Book Award, and the Readers’ Favorite Award.

Hermitage co-founder and program director Patricia Caswell encourages the community to participate in both events. “The Hermitage and PoetryLife have brought many literary greats to Gulf Coast stages. Now it’s your turn to take center stage by reading your favorite poem or discussing a book with its author,” she says.

Award-winning creators of all artistic disciplines are invited to live and work at the Hermitage Artist Retreat in Englewood. During their residencies, they share their talents with the community. Some programs are on the beach; others are in the Palm House. Whether a program is indoors or outdoors, attendees are invited to stay and enjoy the beach afterwards. The Hermitage Artist Retreat Palm House is located at 6630 Manasota Key Road in Englewood.

Executive director Bruce Rodgers explains that these cultural gatherings exist to give the community the rare opportunity to interact with celebrated authors, poets, artists, composers and performers from around the world. “Artists who are invited to be at the Hermitage are asked to give free programs for the community during their stay with us.” He adds that, in addition to programs at the Hermitage, many artists also participate in free outreach programs at area schools, colleges, and in collaboration with regional cultural organizations

All programs are subject to change. Please check the Hermitage website or Facebook page for updated program status. The Hermitage Artist Retreat is located at 6630 Manasota Key Road in Englewood. For more information about Fridays @ 5 or the Hermitage, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

**About the Hermitage Artist Retreat:**

The Hermitage is a nonprofit artist retreat located in Englewood, Sarasota County, Florida. It invites accomplished artists in all disciplines for residencies on its beachfront campus which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its artists, who are asked to interact with the community, touch thousands of Gulf Coast residents and visitors with unique and inspiring programs. Hermitage fellows have included Pulitzer, Tony, Emmy, Grammy and MacArthur Fellowship award winners. The Hermitage awards the $30,000 Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, and the Aspen Music Festival awards the annual Hermitage Prize in Composition. For more information about The Hermitage Artist Retreat, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

**The Hermitage is supported by:**

Hermitage programs are supported, in part, by philanthropist Gerri Aaron; by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts; by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenues; and by the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council of Arts and Culture and the State of Florida (Section 286.25 Florida Statutes).