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Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 BMAC hosts discussion of ‘Monsters: A Fan’s Dilemma’

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3 TEXT BODY:

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4 The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) hosts a
5 book-club-style discussion of Claire Dederer’s book, *Monsters: A*
6 *Fan’s Dilemma*, Thursday, April 9, at 5:30 p.m.

7 The event is part of the museum’s new series, BMAC
8 Reads — Conversations About Books About Art.

9 In this book, Dederer asks: Can we love the work of
10 Hemingway, Polanski, Miles Davis, or Picasso? Should we love it?

11 Does genius deserve special dispensation? Is male monstrosity
12 the same as female monstrosity?

13 “Highly topical, morally wise, honest to the core,
14 *Monsters* has incited a cultural conversation about whether and
15 how we can separate artists from their art,” wrote organizers in a
16 news release.

17 In a 2023 review in *The New Yorker*, Melissa Febos
18 describes *Monsters* as “Excellent [...] A work of deep thought and
19 self-scrutiny that honors the impossibility of the book’s mission.

20 Dederer comes to accept her love for the art that has shaped her
21 by facing the monstrous, its potential in herself, and the ways it
22 can exist alongside beauty and pathos. Go ahead, she tells us,
23 love what you love. It excuses no one.”

24 A longtime contributor to *The New York Times*, Claire
25 Dederer is a memoirist, essayist, and critic. Her essays, criticism,
26 and reviews have appeared in such publications as *The Paris*
27 *Review*, *The Atlantic*, *The Nation*, and *Vogue*. She began her
28 career as the chief film critic for *Seattle Weekly*.

29 The April 9 conversation at BMAC will be moderated by
30 Elizabeth Catlin. A resident of Dummerston, Catlin describes
31 herself as a voracious reader and board member of the
32 Brattleboro Literary Festival and Vermont Community Foundation.
33 She is the immediate past board chair at the Brattleboro Retreat
34 and current chair of the national board for Girls on the Run.

35 Admission is free for BMAC members, \$10 for everyone
36 else. Participants are expected to have read the book beforehand.
37 Space is limited, and advance registration is required. To register,
38 visit brattleboromuseum.org or call 802-257-0124, ext. 101.

39 BMAC Reads is supported in part by a gift in memory of
40 Lorraine K. Wiesen, a lover of books and art.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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