



VALENTINE'S DAY AT IRIS

February 14, 2018

# MENU

*Please select one item for each course.*



petite wild boar osso buco, crispy Anson Mills grits cake, port Dijon jus  
roasted apple and parsnip bisque, gingered crème fraîche, garam masala pepitas  
grilled pear salad, herbed ricotta crostini, walnuts, baby greens, pear cider vinaigrette



pepper-seared beef tenderloin, zinfandel blackberry reduction,  
Roth Creamery buttermilk blue cheese, herbed onion rings, speck-wilted  
balsamic Tuscan kale, chive and sour cream whipped Yukon potatoes  
locally raised, all-natural roasted chicken breast, smoked almond-piquillo romesco,  
garlic-roasted fingerling potatoes, grilled asparagus with lemon and dill  
North Carolina red snapper "bouillabaisse," artichoke hearts, picholine olives,  
fennel pollen-orange gremolata  
butternut squash and chanterelle gratin, sage, aged Crotonese cheese,  
sweet and spicy fried Brussels sprouts



cheese board of artisan cheeses, baguette, dulce de membrillo  
roasted pineapple cinnamon sorbet  
field greens salad, herb shallot vinaigrette



chocolate hazelnut truffle cake with bittersweet chocolate Kahlua mousse,  
sour cherry coulis, mini meringues  
key lime and raspberry cheesecake, citrus brandy snaps  
passionfruit tartlet with whipped coconut milk, apricot Grand Marnier sauce



Alcohol, gratuity, and tax are not included.  
Eighteen percent gratuity will be added to your final bill.  
No discounts applicable.



North Carolina Museum of Art

# LOVE (AND LUST?) IN THE GALLERIES

William Adolphe Bouguereau, *Girl Defending Herself against Love*, 1880, oil on canvas, 66¾ × 44⅞ in., University of North Carolina at Wilmington

## THE LONG ROAD TO THE ALTAR

The painting's subject was likely a personal one for Bouguereau. In 1877, a few months after the death of his first wife, he announced to his family his intention to propose to Jane Gardner, a New Hampshire native who was his prize pupil. The road to the altar proved a long and rocky one. The union was strongly opposed by his family, and Gardner, whose career was on the rise, was torn between her career ambitions and her feelings for her teacher. In the summer of 1879, a few months before Bouguereau would begin work on the painting, Gardner wrote to her mother: "And now about my engagement ...

I am very fond of Mons. Bouguereau and he has given every proof of his devotion to me ... neither of us wishes to be married at present. I have long been accustomed to my freedom. I am beginning to obtain a part of the success for which I have struggled for so long. He is ambitious for me as I for myself." Gardner's resistance to immediately binding herself in marriage to the older artist might be reflected in *Girl Defending Herself against Love*, which perhaps also expressed in a playful, erudite manner the emotions of the artist who had been unwilling to defend himself against Cupid's arrow. The couple finally married in 1896.



➡️ *How long was your road to the altar?*

Auguste Rodin, *The Kiss*, modeled circa 1881–82, cast at a later date, bronze, H. 34 × W. 17 × D. 22 in., Gift of the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

## FORBIDDEN LOVE

Rodin, inspired by Dante's *Inferno*, captures a kiss between tragic lovers Paolo and Francesca in this sculpture. Paolo is Francesca's tutor and the brother of her betrothed, who would murder them both. Reading the story of Lancelot and his own intense love, Paolo and Francesca succumb to passion. Francesca recounts, "He who shall never be parted from me, tremblingly kissed me on the mouth ... that day we read no farther."

This work was originally conceived as part of Rodin's large-scale sculpture *The Gates of Hell*. Rodin chose to omit this tender yet ardent image from his final plan because he found it incongruous with the rest of the work. Luckily for us, it was preserved as an independent work, a masterful depiction of burgeoning, secret love.



➡️ *Famous tragic couples: Who are some of your favorite ill-fated valentines?*

François Boucher and Studio, *Venus Rising from the Waves*, circa 1766, oil on canvas, 56 × 45 in., Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Sosthenes Behn

## IN THE CLOUDS

Here Venus, the Roman goddess of love, is surrounded by many of her attributes, objects that describe her associations with love. The little winged figures or cupids are mythical figures who use their arrows to make targets fall in love with the first beings they encounter, generating love and sometimes havoc. Doves and pink roses suggest the lightness and intoxicating nature of love, while their thorns also refer to the sharp pain of the wounds that sometimes accompany love.



➡️ *What symbols best represent your love?*

## ♥ CONTINUE EXPLORING ♥

*What works in the collection best represent an important relationship in your life?  
What in the work reminds you of that relationship?*