Works of the Mind Lecture
The Basic Program of Liberal Education for Adults

Buried Narratives: The Pleasures of Repression in James, Fitzgerald, Faulkner, and Their Successors

Sunday, May 15, 2016 | 1 pm

Claudia Cassidy Theater
Chicago Cultural Center
78 E. Washington

William Veeder
Professor Emeritus, Department of English, Committee on Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities at the University of Chicago

Professor Veeder’s talk is based on the assumption that has driven his teaching and publications for nearly half a century. Pleasure in reading great fiction is increased substantially by our understanding of how great writers manipulate and transform the formal devices bequeathed to them by their tradition. He will be focusing on one such device, the buried narrative—a brief scene introduced into the plot line so subtly that we may read right over it, failing to notice its details, let alone to appreciate its intricate importance. The hope is that by studying buried narratives in masterpieces by James, Fitzgerald, Faulkner, and more recent writers, we can learn to watch out for them in whatever fiction we read—increasing pleasure by sharpening acuity.

RSVP by visiting:
grahamschool.uchicago.edu/basicprogram