



State University of New York College of
Environmental Science and Forestry

In each of our readings sight and soul are described as if they turn manifestly towards some true, or truer end. They are depicted as embodied *and* transcendent, qualities that should separate them, but which nest them in this progression instead.

In Plato's Republic we read, *the instrument of knowledge can only by the movement of the whole soul be turned from the world of becoming into that of being, and learn by degrees to endure the sight of being, and of the brightest and best of being, or in other words, of the good.* Through St. Mark's Gospel, we encounter Jesus restoring the sight of a blind man and afterwards asking, *what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and suffer the loss of his soul?* In Savoir H el ene Cixous experiences gradual sightedness after myopia and describes *I, the encounter, the meeting point between my seeing soul and you.*

Together in conversation fireside, and lakeside, we will consider how each reading makes the claim that if our souls turned away from what is fleeting and towards what is true, then knowledge as vision trained on the good might naturally follow.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

5 – 6pm: Arrival, cocktail reception and welcome at Huntington Lodge

6 – 7pm: Dinner at the Lodge

7pm: Evening discussion of Book VII in Republic: *This turning around, having to do with the way the soul would be most easily and effectively redirected, not an art of implanting sight in it, but of how to contrive that for someone who has sight, but doesn't have it turned the right way or looking at what it needs to.*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022

8 – 9am: Breakfast at the Lodge

9 – 11am: Morning discussion of Savoir in Veils: *She had been born with the veil in her eye. A severe myopia stretched its maddening magic between her and the world. She had been born with the veil in her soul.*

11am: Pack field lunches before departing on an afternoon excursion, location to be announced.

5:30pm: Return to HL for cocktail reception followed by dinner and a guest lecture at the Lodge.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022

8 – 9am: Breakfast at the Lodge and pack a field lunch.

9 – 10:30: Morning Discussion of St. Mark: *What wilt thou that I should do to thee? And the blind man said to him: Rabboni, that I may see.*

10:30am onward: Guests are welcome to spend the remainder of the day on Arbutus Lake and trails.

All conversation is a magnetic experiment.
– Ralph Waldo Emerson, from *Society and Solitude*