Is the past bound to repeat itself? This was the question of the night at The New Criterion’s inaugural Circle Lecture, delivered by the esteemed scholar and writer Gary Saul Morson. Morson’s discussion included powerful remarks on the nature and still-pervasive legacy of Vladimir Lenin’s
It sometimes seems that we are living in a world that views truth itself as a superfluous and archaic concept. In place of truth-telling we often encounter clear-cut lies, yes. But at least as commonplace and perhaps far more insidious is the practice of euphemism—a twisting of words, and thus reality—which permeates of our most foundational institutions.

The Circle Lecture, made possible by the generosity of our supporters, proves it takes just a small group of good men and women standing in solidarity for truth to win out. It is heartening to know that the ranks of our readership, our Supporters Circle, and our Friends Circle continue to grow. A sign, we think, that our work is valued and that we are doing our part to fight back against totalitarian impulses. With your support, we will continue to be a source of truth in art and intellectual life.

With appreciation,
The Editors

Support our efforts at newcriterion.com/donatation.

Each week the editors of The New Criterion offer recommendations on what to read, see, and hear in the world of culture in the weekly Critic’s Notebook. To get it first, subscribe to the free Critic’s Notebook email by clicking here.