

The Friends of the FREER HOUSE

PRESENT:

Charles Lang Freer and Detroit's Pewabic Pottery

Lecture by

Dr. Thomas W. Brunk

Sunday, March 28, 2010

2:00 pm

Charles Lang Freer House

71 East Ferry, Detroit



Charles Lang Freer, ca. 1915-16. Photograph by Edward Steichen. Collection of George Eastman House, International Museum of Photography, Rochester, New York



Mary Chase Perry in her studio in 1905

"As we look back upon them, those afternoons with Mr. Freer remain in our minds not so much as pleasant visits to a gallery [but] as experiences of life." Mary Chase Perry

Through his friendship with the founders of Pewabic Pottery, Mary Chase Perry and Horace Caulkins, Freer gained great insight into ceramic processes, and Pewabic had access to his remarkable art collection and knowledge. With Freer's encouragement, Perry developed her pallet of six iridescent glazes that gave Pewabic Pottery a unique advantage over other American Arts and Crafts potteries.

This talk will focus on Freer's development as an art connoisseur, his extraordinary ceramic interests and their influences on Pewabic Pottery. Freer's selection of thirty-five Pewabic vessels as a permanent part of the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art, and their relationship to his American art collection, will be discussed in detail.

Dr. Thomas W. Brunk is a prominent historian of art and architecture and teaches at the College for Creative Studies. He is the recognized scholar on the history of Pewabic Pottery and is the leading authority on the Detroit history of Charles L. Freer and the Freer House.



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Dr. Thomas W. Brunk

Dr. Thomas W. Brunk, art and architecture historian, has studied Pewabic Pottery for nearly forty years. A noted Freer and Pewabic Pottery scholar, he has lectured and written extensively on Freer, Freer house, and Pewabic Pottery. Brunk earned his doctorate from The Union Institute in 1997 with his seven volume dissertation on Freer's ceramic collecting. He is also the author of the book, *The C.L. Freer Residence, the Original Freer Gallery of Art*.

From 1974-1981 he was curator and archivist of Michigan State University's Pewabic Pottery. He was a founding member of The Pewabic Society Inc. in 1979, and served as its president in 1988-89. Brunk was also president of The Stapleton Foundation for Health Education at Wayne State University; The Scarab Club; and The Saarinen (Michigan) Chapter of The Society of Architectural Historians. He has curated several exhibitions of Pewabic Pottery at Michigan State University, the Detroit Historical Museum, Detroit Institute of Arts, the University of Michigan Museum of Art, Pewabic Pottery, and the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum at Saginaw Valley State University. Brunk is finishing a history of Pewabic Pottery for Michigan State University Press. Currently, he is president of The Detroit Masonic Temple Library and Museum, and the Friends of the Freer House. Dr. Brunk teaches at the College for Creative Studies and has devoted over 35 years to documenting the Freer House and promoting its restoration.



This rare early Pewabic vessel (above) that Mary Chase Perry designed especially for Charles Lang Freer in celebration of his 1904 acquisition of Whistler's Peacock Room, will be displayed at the lecture from Dr. Brunk's private collection.

Exhibition Gallery fireplace (right), Freer House, of iridescent and "Egyptian Blue" glazed tiles from Pewabic Pottery, 1911.

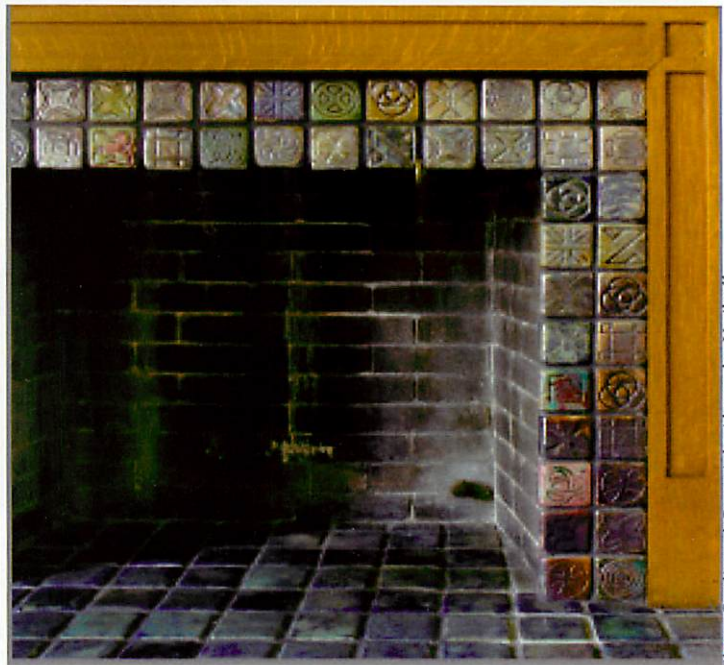


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Lecture Series
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Mark Your Calendars

Thursday, May 20, 2010
(5:30pm)

*"Charles Lang Freer
and the Pursuit of Japanese Art"*

Lecture by Dr. Ann Yonemura
Senior Associate Curator of Japanese Art
Freer Gallery of Art

The Friends of the FREER HOUSE

The Friends of the Freer House is devoted to raising awareness of the legacy of Charles Lang Freer and support for the preservation and restoration of the historic Freer House.

The group is a membership organization affiliated with The Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, Wayne State University and open to the public.

For membership and volunteer information contact:
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