

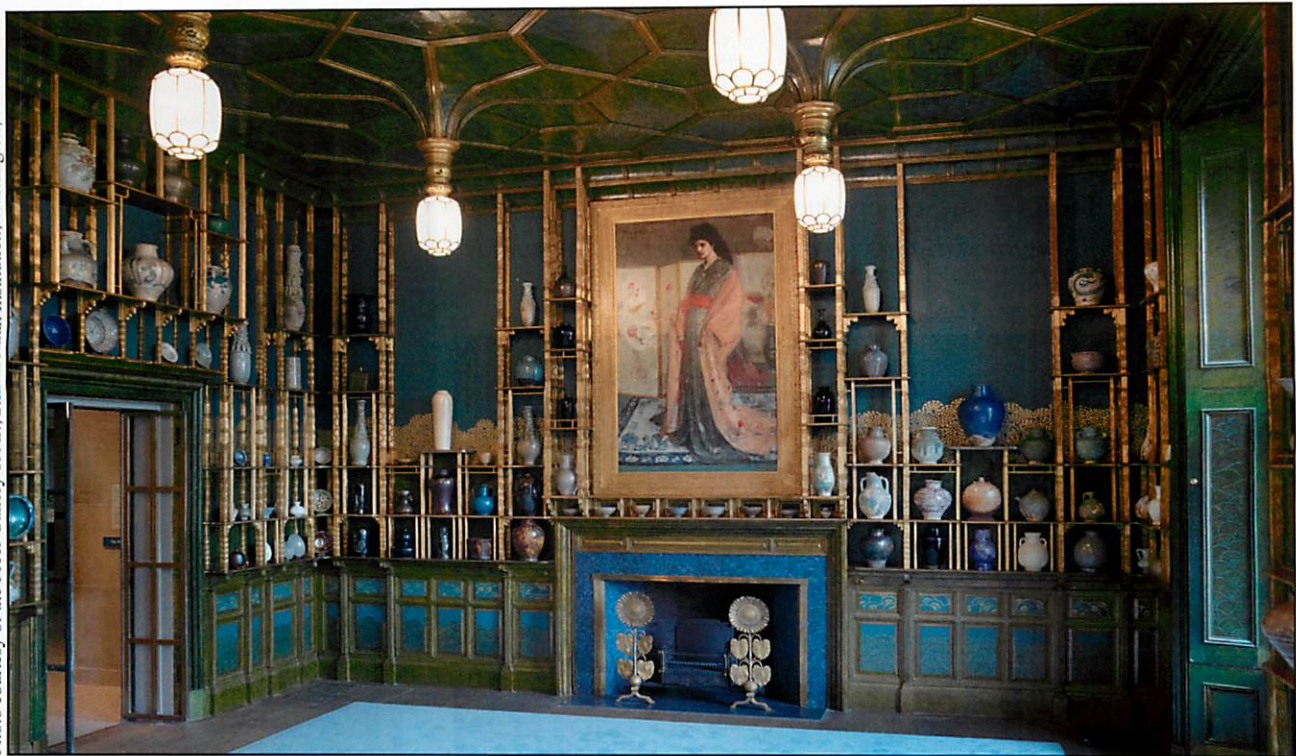
PAINTING WITH POTTERY IN THE PEACOCK ROOM

a lecture by

Louise Allison Cort, Curator for Ceramics

Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

Photo courtesy of the Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.



Sunday, April 1, 2012, 2pm

Detroit Institute of Arts, Marvin and Betty Danto Lecture Hall. (use Farnsworth entrance)
Lecture is free with DIA admission.

Benefit reception and tours to follow (3:15-5pm) at the Charles Lang Freer House, 71 East Ferry
\$10 general public, \$5 students & Freer House members
RSVP is requested for reception: 313-664-2509 or mpsi@wayne.edu

Once an opulent dining room in London and then a private exhibition space in Detroit, Whistler's Peacock Room is today a treasure of the Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. The Peacock Room was recently restored to look as it did in the Ferry Avenue home of Charles Lang Freer, with Freer's extraordinary collection of Asian and Islamic ceramics on the walls.

Louise Cort will describe this Detroit inspired exhibit of the Peacock Room that reveals Freer's startling eye for color harmonies in his groupings of pottery and glazes and offers new insights into his fundamental approach to collecting art and Asian ceramics.

Originally designed in 1875 to display its British owner's collection of blue and white Chinese porcelain, the Peacock Room was decorated by artist James McNeill Whistler in an elaborate peacock motif that became a sensation in its time. Today it is considered to be one of the top 20 icons of American art.

Charles Lang Freer purchased the room in 1904, moved it to his Detroit home, and used it to display his own remarkable ceramics collection. In 1920 the room was relocated to Washington, D.C. and installed in the Freer Gallery of Art. The new *Peacock Room Comes to America* exhibit presents the room for the first time as it looked in Detroit, 1906-1919.

Co-Sponsors

THE FREER HOUSE
ASIAN & ISLAMIC ART FORUM, DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS
JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF GREATER DETROIT AND WINDSOR

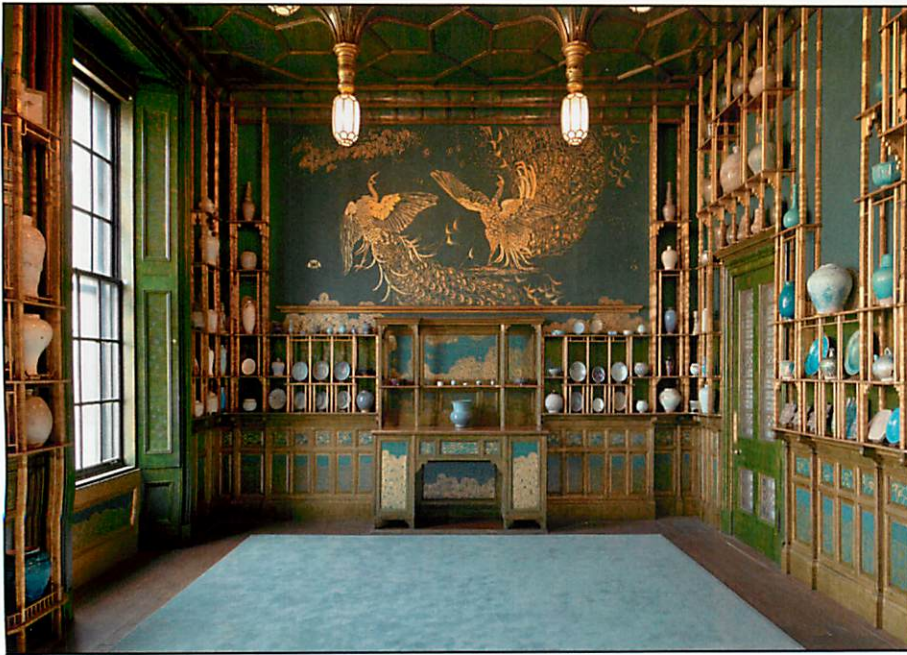
For location and parking information: <http://mpsi.wayne.edu/freer-events.php>



About the Speaker

Louise Allison Cort is Curator for Ceramics at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution. She is a noted authority and scholar of historical and contemporary ceramics of Japan, South and Southeast Asia, as well as Japanese baskets, textiles and the Japanese tea ceremony.

Since 1989, Louise Allison Cort has conducted foundation supported documentation of present-day village based ceramics production in Southeast Asia. In 2008 she co-produced the online catalogue, *Ceramics in Mainland Southeast Asia: Collections in the Freer and Sackler Galleries of Art*.



Photos courtesy of
the Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

View a panorama of the Peacock Room
www.asia.si.edu/exhibitions/current/peacockRoom/pano.asp



Freer House is a nationally designated historic site and headquarters for the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute of WSU. Membership in the Freer House is open to the public and promotes the legacy of Charles Lang Freer and the ongoing restoration of this landmark building.

For information contact: 313-664-2500 or mpsi@wayne.edu

The Freer House receives generous support from the Americana Foundation

