

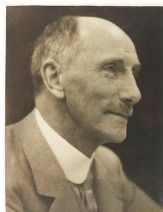


THE FREER HOUSE

An International Landmark... A World Class Lecture Series



71 East Ferry, Detroit, MI 48202
313-664-2500



A Museum Rises: How Charles Lang Freer's Collection of American and Asian Art Landed on America's Mall



Above: Charles L. Freer, 1916, photo by Edward Steichen, Freer Gallery of Art, Archives.
Architectural rendering of the Freer Gallery of Art, by Charles A. Platt, architect, 1915.
Right: Freer Gallery of Art under construction, 1918, Freer Gallery of Art, Archives.

**Sunday, March 26, 2017
2:00 pm**

Lecture by Dr. Geoffrey G. Drutchas
Cultural Historian
at
The Freer House
71 East Ferry, Detroit MI

Reception & tours to follow lecture

Freer House Members \$5
Students \$5
General Admission \$10

RSVP IS REQUIRED

Register early, space is limited
contact Rose Foster at:
313-664-2509 or rmfoster@wayne.edu



In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Detroit industrialist Charles Lang Freer became an eminent collector of American and Asian art. For over two decades, Freer maintained his art collection at his home on Ferry Avenue. Gallery space was added to his residence for the display of art for visitors and to accommodate the fabulous and storied "Peacock Room," by James McNeill Whistler.

Freer ultimately chose to bequeath his fabled art collection to the Smithsonian Institution as a gift to the nation, and funded the construction of a museum to house it on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. In his talk, cultural historian Geoffrey G. Drutchas will explore the complex motives that led Freer to choose our nation's capital as the permanent site for the museum that would bear his name. Highlighted will be the instrumental role of two fellow Detroiters, U.S. Senator James McMillan and Charles Moore, in Freer's decision.

Also examined will be Freer's selection of architect Charles A. Platt to design the building and his own hands-on efforts to ensure that the new museum erected next door to the Smithsonian Castle would display to best advantage the art collection that had become the great passion of his life.

MAP AND DETAILS ON BACK

EVENT SPONSORS

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Freer Gallery of Art

A Detroiter's Gift to the Nation

The Freer Gallery of Art will reopen to the public on October 15, 2017 following two years of extensive renovations. In recognition of the 94th anniversary of the Freer Gallery and in celebration of its grand reopening, join us for this special lecture about the original conception, design and construction of America's first national art museum and its origin in Detroit.

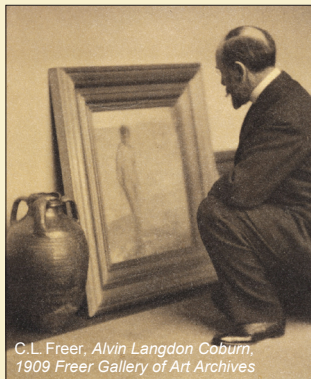


ABOUT THE SPEAKER

DR. GEOFFREY G. DRUTCHAS is a Detroit native and past Freer House lecturer who writes extensively on historical topics for such publications as the *Michigan Historical Review* and the *Italian American Review*. He recently published the monograph, *A Great Village: The Founding Generation of the Yondotega Club, 1891-1945*, narrating the history of Detroit's elite social club, co-founded by Charles Freer. Books by Dr. Drutchas include, *Is Life Sacred?*, and *Tommaso Juglaris: An Artist Between Europe and America*. Current projects include a web site, *Through An Artist's Eyes: Tommaso Juglaris in Europe and America*, and a three-part biography of Freer, Charles Moore, and Senator James McMillan as the shapers of the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Drutchas is a *Phi Beta Kappa* graduate of Michigan State University, Harvard University, and the Lancaster Theological Seminary. He also studied at Wayne State University Law School and Syracuse University, where his focus was philosophy and art. Geoffrey and his wife Eileen Vernor are active members of the Freer House.

THE FREER HOUSE, MERRILL PALMER SKILLMAN INSTITUTE



C.L. Freer, Alvin Langdon Coburn, 1909 Freer Gallery of Art Archives

Charles Lang Freer (1854-1919) made his fortune in railroad freight car manufacturing in Detroit. His remarkable shingle style residence on East Ferry Ave. was designed in 1892 by Wilson Eyre, Jr. Freer's home contained one of the world's greatest collections of Asian and American art, that include paintings by Whistler and his famed Peacock Room. Freer bequeathed his collection to the Smithsonian where it is housed today at the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.



photo by ALEXANDER VERTIKOFF

The Freer House (1892) is ranked as one of the most important historic buildings in Michigan. Its fine architectural detail and rich cultural history are both locally and internationally significant. The Freer House is also recognized for its role in child and family development as the home of the renowned Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute since 1920.

The Freer House membership organization works to preserve this landmark through public events, tours and fundraising for restoration. Recent accomplishments include the reproduction of original paintings for the main hall and parlor and a new historically appropriate roof. Current goals include the courtyard garden and the Whistler Gallery restoration projects.

For information contact: Director, William Colburn
william.colburn@wayne.edu or 313-664-2511

Lecture Location: FREER HOUSE
71 East Ferry St., Detroit, MI 48202
(One block north of the DIA)



Parking is available behind the Freer House. Travel south on John R. to access WSU Lot 35. Pay \$7.50 at the gate with credit or debit card.