The Artist’s Garden:
American Impressionism and the Garden Movement, 1887-1920

Hosted by
The Freer House, WSU
Associates of the American Wing, DIA
Friends of Art and Flowers, DIA

By Anna O. Marley, PhD
Curator of Historical American Art, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA)

The Artist’s Garden will provide a sneak peek into PAFA’s 2015 major exhibition which tells the intertwining stories of American artists, Impressionism and the growing popularity of gardening as a middle class pursuit. Through paintings, sculptures, books and gardening ephemera, The Artist’s Garden will reveal the visual arts of this period as manifestations of an emerging Progressive-era American identity.

When Americans hear the word Impressionism, many think of France, Claude Monet’s paintings of water lilies and his gardens at Giverny. This lecture encourages audiences to expand their understanding of Impressionism’s international impact by introducing the artists associated with the American movement. Employing both horticultural and art historical methodologies, The Artist’s Garden explores the far reaching effects of Impressionism on American aesthetics and culture.

The lecture highlights the art and gardens of Maria Oakey and Thomas Wilmer Dewing, favorite artists and friends of Detroit’s Charles Lang Freer, who contributed to the decoration of Freer’s home and the design of his gardens, now scheduled for restoration.

This event is dedicated to the memory of Denise Little, supporter and inspirational leader of the Freer House Garden Revitalization Project.

Program Hosts: Chuck Little and David Michener, PhD

Sunday, October 5, 2:00 pm

2:00 PM LECTURE
at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Marvin and Betty Danto Lecture Hall
FREE with DIA admission

3:30 - 5:00 PM RECEPTION & TOURS
at the Freer House
$10 General Admission
$5 students
$5 Members of AAW, UM-MBGNA, and Freer House

For more information contact
Rose Foster or William Colburn at 313-664-2500

See reverse for map and event details.


71 East Ferry, Detroit Michigan, 48202 | 313-664-2500
FALL 2014
An International Landmark... A World Class Lecture Series

This event is dedicated to the memory of Denise Little, supporter and inspirational leader of the Freer House Garden Revitalization Project.
Anna O. Marley joined the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA) in 2009 as Curator of Historical American Art. Marley holds a PhD in Art History from the University of Delaware and is presently the Co-Chair of the Association of Historians of American Art. Marley’s recent exhibitions at PAFA include *Spiritual Strivings: A Celebration of African American Works on Paper* and *Henry Ossawa Tanner: Modern Spirit*. Currently she is curating the touring exhibition, *The Artists Garden: American Impressionism and the Garden Movement, 1887-1920* and editing the accompanying catalog to be published by University of Pennsylvania Press. She is also working on future exhibits on Thomas Eakins’s photography and 19th century history painting in the Americas.

The Freer House Courtyard Garden Project

Freer’s gardens were notable and renowned in their day. Originally designed in 1892 and reinstalled in 1906, Freer’s gardens, like his art collection, combined Asian and Western influences in the choice of plant varieties and attention to detail. Decades later, the courtyard is barren and in need of attention. Our vision is to re-create Freer’s beautiful gardens based on his original concepts, while making this unique space a sustainable, low maintenance environment for quiet contemplation and outdoor events, to benefit the Freer House and the community.

Denise Little: Talented Artist and Generous Supporter of Historic Homes and Gardens

Our program, *The Artist’s Garden*, is dedicated to the memory of Denise Little, a vibrant leader and active member of the Freer House Garden Project. As an artist, entrepreneur and community volunteer, Denise was committed to restoring the gardens at the historic Charles Lang Freer House and creating a place of beauty for all to enjoy. The Freer House, Wayne State and the Garden Project Committee will continue to fulfill Denise’s vision for this exciting project. The Denise Little Freer House Garden Fund has been established with a leadership gift from Denise & Chuck Little to help make this dream a reality. For information on how to contribute, please contact: William Colburn, 313-664-2500 or william.colburn@wayne.edu.