



THE FREER HOUSE

71 East Ferry, Detroit Michigan, 48202 | 313-664-2500

FALL 2014

An International Landmark... A World Class Lecture Series



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



After Sunset,
1892 Thomas
W. Dewing.
Gift of Charles
Lang Freer, Freer
Gallery of Art.
Smithsonian.

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.

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

M MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS
AND NICHOLS ARBORETUM
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

MERRILL PALMER
SKILLMAN INSTITUTE
for Child & Family Development
mpi

WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY


Art House
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Marc Herrick and Michael Farrell

THE FREER HOUSE

**The Americana
Foundation**



DIA DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS



friends of
art & flowers
Betty Campbell Lecture
Detroit Institute of Arts

AAW
ASSOCIATES OF THE AMERICAN WING

BLOSSOMS
BIRMINGHAM • SINCE 1977



Conceptual rendering for revitalized Freer House Garden by Thomas Holleman.

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



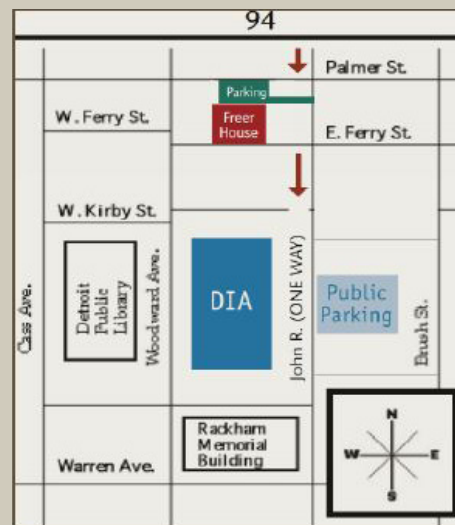
Our program, *The Artist's Garden*, is dedicated to the memory of Denise Little, a vibrant leader and active member of the Freer House Garden Project. As an artist, entrepreneur and community volunteer, Denise was committed to restoring the gardens at the historic Charles Lang Freer House and creating 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.



About the Speaker

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.

EVENT DETAILS



2:00 PM LECTURE
at the DIA
5200 Woodward Ave,
Detroit, MI 48202

**3:30 - 5:00 PM
RECEPTION & TOURS**
at the Freer House
Pay at the door

Parking is available
behind the Freer House.
Travel south on John R.
to access WSU Lot 35.
Pay \$5 at registration.

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

71 East Ferry St. • Detroit, MI, 48202 • One block north of the DIA

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.

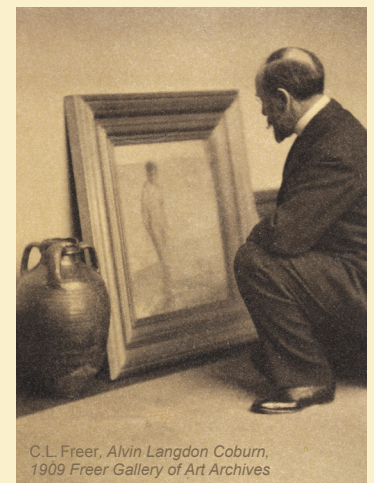
The Freer House membership organization works to preserve this landmark through public events, tours and fundraising for restoration. Recent accomplishments include the reproduction of original paintings for the main hall and parlor and a new historically appropriate roof. Current goals include the courtyard garden and the Whistler Gallery restoration projects. For membership information contact Rose Foster at 313-664-2509.



photo by ALEXANDER VERTIKOFF, 2013

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, including works by Whistler and the Peacock Room. Freer bequeathed his collection to the Smithsonian where it is housed today at the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.



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

www.mpsi.wayne.edu/freer/index.php