

Freer House Report: Summer 2014

Dear Freer House Members and Supporters,

Here is an update on our events and accomplishments of the past three months, with much gratitude for your support. Wishing you a wonderful summer season!

William S. Colburn, Director, The Freer House



1. Wayne State University President M. Roy Wilson Visits Freer House

Wayne State's new President, M. Roy Wilson, and First Lady, Jacqueline Wilson, visited the Freer House on two recent occasions. Dr. and Mrs. Wilson were special guests at the May 4th Freer House luncheon held in honor of Dr. Yukio Lippit and attended Prof. Lippit's public lecture at the DIA. Two days later, President and Mrs. Wilson returned for a private 90 minute tour of the Freer House, their first opportunity to explore the building and learn of its significance. The Wilsons referred to the Freer House as a "treasure" for the university and Detroit and endorsed the ongoing efforts to raise awareness and support for the building's restoration and preservation.



(L-R) WSU President M. Roy Wilson, First Lady Jacqueline Wilson, William Colburn, Director, Freer House, Yukio Lippit, Harvard University.

2. New Tyron Painting Reproduction Installed

A new reproduction of the painting, *Early Spring: New England*, by artist Dwight W. Tryon with a frame designed by Stanford White, was dedicated at the May 4th Freer House event. Sponsored by Freer House member and supporter, Dr. David Weinberg, the giclee reproduction of this large work commissioned in 1897 by Freer, was installed in its original location on the second floor landing of the main hall. A brief ceremony was held honoring Dr. Weinberg's donation with recognition given to J. Douglas Peters, Freer House board member, for his efforts in overseeing the reproduction project. A new photo transparency of the painting and permission to create the facsimile were provided by the Freer Gallery of Art. This newest reproduction joins eleven other paintings sponsored by generous donors and hung in their original locations in the main hall and parlor of the Freer House.



David Weinberg with *Early Spring: New England*

3. Freer House Documented by Award Winning Photographer

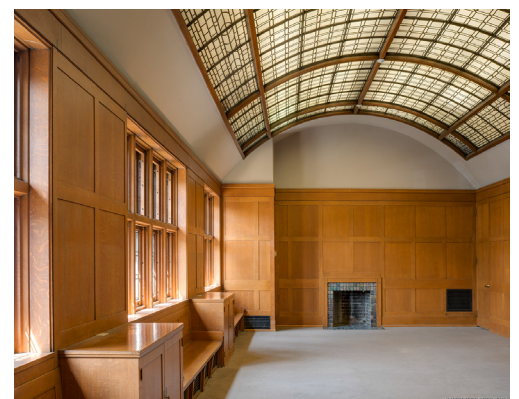
The Freer House was documented by renowned architectural photographer, Alex Vertikoff, in September, 2013. Here are a few of the 30 beautiful images now available to the Freer House for promotional purposes.



Main Hall (built 1892)



Pewabic tile fireplace (installed 1911)



Exhibition Gallery (built 1910-11)



4. Freer House Spring Lecture Draws Large Crowd.

Over 200 people attended the May 4th lecture at the DIA and more than 100 guests visited the Freer House for post lecture tours and reception. Dr. Yukio Lippit of Harvard University and a member of the Freer House National Advisory Board gave a presentation, *In Attendance to the Realm: the Kano School of Painters in 17th Century Japan*, which highlighted Charles L. Freer's collecting interest in art of the Kano school. The program was held in conjunction with the DIA's, *Samurai: Beyond the Sword* exhibit and in partnership with the Asian & Islamic Art Forum/DIA, and the Center for Japanese Studies/UM. Special guests included: Graham Beal, Director, DIA; Consul General of Japan, Dr. Kazayuki Katayama and Mrs. Yukari Katayama; and former mayor Dennis Archer and Trudy Duncombe Archer.



Freer House Tour, May 4th event reception

5. Save the date! Sunday, October 5 - Next Freer House Lecture Event



Anna O. Marley

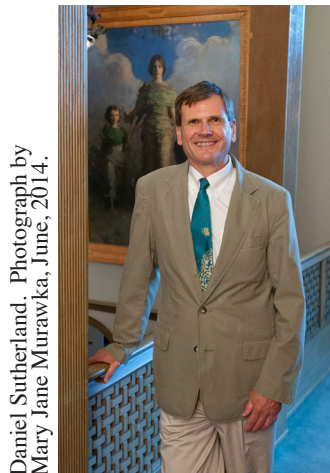
The Artist's Garden: American Impressionism and the Garden Movement: 1887-1920, a presentation by Anna O. Marley PhD, curator of Historical American Art, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), will be held on October 5, 2pm. at the DIA with a reception following at the Freer House. Dr. Marley will provide a sneak preview of PAFA's major 2015 exhibition, *The Artists' Garden*, which tells the stories of American artists and the growing popularity of gardening

as a middle-class pursuit at the turn of the century. A particular focus will be on the art and gardens of Maria Oakey and Thomas Wilmer Dewing, favorite artists and friends of Charles L. Freer, who contributed to the decoration of Freer's Detroit home and the design of his gardens, now scheduled for restoration as part of the Freer House Courtyard Revitalization Project.



After Sunset, Thomas W. Dewing, 1892, oil on canvas. Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian, F1906.68.

6. Author of a New Biography on Whistler Visits the Freer House



Daniel Sutherland. Photograph by Mary Jane Murawka, June, 2014.

Daniel Sutherland PhD, a new member of the Freer House and author of, *Whistler: A Life for Arts Sake*, (Yale University Press, 2014) spent the day visiting Freer's home before his recent lecture on Whistler at the DIA. Dr. Sutherland, an alumnus of Wayne State and Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Arkansas, acknowledges Freer as Whistler's "most generous and loyal patron" in his new book. Freer acquired the world's largest collection of Whistler's art and the Freer House once held over 1,000 works by Whistler including paintings, prints and the famous Peacock Room.

2014 is proving to be a banner year for interest in Whistler. In addition to Sutherland's new book, a major exhibition, *An American in London: Whistler and the Thames*, opened at the Freer and Sacker Galleries in May (on exhibit through August) and a new documentary film, *James McNeill Whistler: A Case for Beauty*, will be shown locally on WTVS, Channel 56, on Sunday, September 14, 3pm.

For membership and additional information contact William Colburn or Rose Foster
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