



THE FREER HOUSE

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

An International Landmark... A World Class Lecture Series



Ewer, Goryeo dynasty, stoneware, celadon glaze.
Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Charles Lang Freer and the Discovery of Korean Ceramics

by Louise Allison Cort

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

Sunday, May 22, 2:00 pm

LECTURE:
Detroit Institute of Arts
Marvin and Betty Danto Lecture Hall
FREE with DIA admission

3:30 - 5 PM RECEPTION & TOURS:
Freer House, 71 East Ferry Street, Detroit
(pay at the door)
General Admission \$10
Students \$5
Members of FAAC or Freer House \$5

Co-Sponsors:
Friends of Asian Arts and Cultures (FAAC), DIA
Korean Consulate General in Chicago
Korean Honorary Consul General in Michigan

For information or to RSVP contact:
Rose Foster at 313-664-2509 or rmfoster@wayne.edu

The simple forms, spare decoration, and monochrome glazes of the Joseon period (1392–1910) Korean tea bowls used in Japan attracted Charles Lang Freer to Korean ceramics. He expanded his collection to include celadon ceramics from the Goryeo dynasty (918–1392), which had once adorned palaces, Buddhist temples, and private residences of the aristocracy. During the last 20 years of his life, Freer acquired nearly 500 Korean art objects, including approximately 130 Goryeo and 80 Joseon ceramic pieces. When the Freer Gallery of Art opened its doors in 1923, Freer's assembly of Korean art was considered unparalleled in quality and historical scope.

[Map and details on back](#)

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OBJECT
HIGHLIGHT

Bottle, Korea,
Jeolla-do province,
Buan or Ganjin kilns,
Goryeo dynasty,
late 13th - early 14th c.
stoneware with black
and white inlays under
celadon glaze.



"While visiting Freer in Detroit in November 1907, the famed art historian Ernest Fenollosa spent a day discussing his host's recent acquisitions from the Horace Allen collection. This bottle caught his attention, and he sketched it in his notebook, noting that it was a "most superb [illegible] Korean (stork + cloud) tall vase... gray... with touches of dark gray green."

Korean Art in the Freer and Sackler Galleries - by Louise Cort

Charles Lang Freer and the Discovery of Korean Ceramics

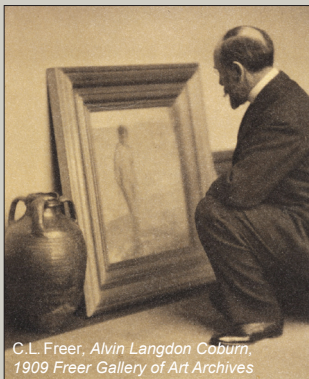


ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Louise Allison Cort is curator of Ceramics at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution. Her interests include historical and contemporary ceramics in Japan, Southeast Asia and South Asia, Japanese baskets and textiles, and the Japanese arts of tea (chanoyu). She is the author of *Shigaraki, Potters' Valley*, published in 1979 and reprinted in 2000. Her study on Indian ritual earthenware, *Temple Potters of Puri* (with Purna Chandra Mishra), was published in

2012. With Andrew M. Watsky, Cort organized and co-edited *Chigusa and the Art of Tea* (2014). In 2012 she received the thirty-third Koyama Fujio Memorial Prize for her research on historical and contemporary Japanese ceramics and the Smithsonian Distinguished Scholar Award. She was organizer and principle author for *Korean Art in the Freer and Sackler Galleries*, published in 2013. Louise Cort's last lecture for the Freer House in May 2012 was entitled, *Painting with Pottery in the Peacock Room*.

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, 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.



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

Reception 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 at the gate with credit or debit card.