This lecture by Lee Glazer will explore how Charles Lang Freer’s philosophy of collecting art grew out of the design and decoration of his Detroit home. Freer envisioned his house on Ferry Avenue as a haven from the realities of turn of the century industrial life. The collaborative efforts of Freer, his architect Wilson Eyre and various artist friends resulted in “a dream of beauty, inside and out”, as one visitor observed.

In the early 1890’s, Freer began collecting works by contemporary American artists, notably Thomas Dewing, Dwight Tryon and Pewabic ceramist Mary Chase Perry, whose styles resonated with that of James McNeill Whistler, the artist whose work and artistic ideas had captivated Freer’s imagination. By the early 1900’s, Freer’s focus shifted to Asian art, but his interest in tonal harmonies and textured surfaces in paintings and ceramics remained constant.

It was through the sophisticated decoration of his Detroit home that Freer developed an aesthetic eye, and his ability to discern “points of contact” between Asian and American art ultimately resulted in the Smithsonian’s Freer Gallery of Art. This talk will highlight the new exhibit organized by Dr. Glazer at the Freer Gallery entitled “Surface Beauty: Freer’s Aesthetic Vision”.

**Space is Limited--RSVP Required (313) 872-1790**

Complimentary Admission to Friends of Freer House Members
Admission $10.00--$5.00 for Students

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**Sunday, November 9, 2008**
2:00 PM
Charles Lang Freer House, 71 East Ferry, Detroit
Lecture & Light Reception/Tours of the Freer House

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About the Speaker

Lee Glazer is Associate Curator of American Art at the Smithsonian’s Freer Gallery of Art/Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, where her most recent exhibitions include “Surface Beauty: American Art and Freer’s Aesthetic Vision” and “Seascapes: Tryon & Sugimoto.” An expert on turn-of-the-century American painting, Dr. Glazer has published on a wide range of topics including Whistler, Romare Bearden, and 19th-century popular song and illustration. Her most recent publication is *James McNeill Whistler in Context*, a multi-author volume of essays delivered at an international symposium held in Glasgow in 2003.

Acknowledgements

Support for the Nov. 9 lecture program is provided, in part, by the Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution. The 2008-2009 Friends of Freer House Lecture Series is supported by the generosity of the Americana Foundation.

The Americana Foundation supports educational and advocacy programs that address the conservation of natural resources and the protection and presentation of expressions of America’s heritage.

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Friends of the Freer House

The Friends of the Freer House is devoted to raising awareness of the history of Charles Lang Freer and support for the preservation and restoration of the C.L. Freer House. The group is a membership organization affiliated with the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, Wayne State University and is open to the public.

For membership information call (313) 872-1790

Special Thank You

A reproduction of the painting *A Virgin* by Abbott Handerson Thayer has been installed in the main hall where the original hung in Freer’s lifetime.

We gratefully acknowledge Marianne Endicott for her generous gift

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, February 8, 2009

Ken Myers,
Curator of American Art, DIA
Freer and Whistler
2pm, Freer House