

MERRILL PALMER SKILLMAN INSTITUTE

Friends of the FREER HOUSE

WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

PRESENT:

*Surface Beauty:
Freer's American Art, Home and Aesthetic Vision*

A LECTURE BY:

Dr. Lee Glazer

Curator of American Art

Freer Gallery of Art/Arthur M. Sackler Gallery/Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.



Thomas Wilmer Dewing, *The Piano* (1891),
Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2008

2:00 PM

CHARLES LANG FREER HOUSE, 71 EAST FERRY, DETROIT
LECTURE & LIGHT RECEPTION/TOURS OF THE FREER HOUSE

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

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

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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



Abbott Handerson Thayer, *A Virgin*, (1892-1893), Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, February 8, 2009

Ken Myers,

Curator of American Art, DIA

Freer and Whistler

2pm, Freer House