

MERRILL PALMER SKILLMAN INSTITUTE
Friends of the **FREER HOUSE**
WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

presents a lecture

WHISTLER'S SERIOUSNESS

by

Carole McNamara, Senior Curator of Western Art
University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA)

Self Portrait of Whistler, etching, James McNeill Whistler, 1859, University of Michigan Museum of Art



Sunday, October, 23rd
2:00 pm

Charles Lang Freer House, 71 East Ferry, Detroit

Charles Lang Freer and James McNeill Whistler were not only patron and client, but close and loyal friends. Freer was greatly influenced by Whistler's ideas about art and recognized the depth of the artist's intellect beneath his flamboyant personality.

James McNeill Whistler enjoyed the reputation of a brilliant artist and wit, whose humor could turn from amusement to rapier-sharp criticism, a trait embodied in the image of his butterfly monogram armed with a barbed tail. Despite his public persona as a dandy, Whistler was deadly earnest about his art and often cloaked his most deeply felt beliefs in humor.



In her talk, Carole McNamara will explore Whistler's seriousness in his graphic work. In addition, Carole McNamara will highlight the special relationship of Charles Lang Freer with Margaret Watson Parker as fellow collectors of Whistler's work. When the young Miss Watson (later married to U of M Professor Walter R. Parker) met Charles Lang Freer in 1900, she had already been collecting in the same areas as Freer: Whistler and Japanese art. Through Freer's mentorship and introductions to eminent dealers, Watson built a distinguished collection of art that is one of the treasures of UMMA's holdings.

The Whistler prints donated by Mrs. Watson Parker comprise the bulk of UMMA's outstanding collection of Whistler's graphic work, one of the most significant in the world. Among the over 180 prints are rare touched proofs, etchings and lithographs, examples of which will illustrate this fascinating look at the profound beliefs and unique talents of one of America's greatest artists.

*****Space is Limited--RSVP Required (313) 664-2509 or mpsi@wayne.edu*****

\$10 per person, \$5 for students and complimentary admission for members of Friends of the Freer House

Reception and tours follow the lecture

For directions and parking information: <http://mpsi.wayne.edu/directions.php>

Eagle Wharf, 1859, James McNeill Whistler, University of Michigan Museum of Art



About the Speaker

Carole McNamara, Senior Curator of Western Art, has devoted more than thirty years of her career to the University of Michigan Museum of Art serving in roles ranging from Registrar, to Assistant Director for Collections and Exhibitions, to Interim Director. Her most recent exhibitions, “The Lens of Impressionism: Photography and Painting Along the Normandy Coast, 1850-1874”, and “On Beauty and the Everyday: The Prints of James McNeill Whistler” join a long list that have garnered rave reviews and large audiences for the UMMA. She earned an M.A. in History of Art at Williams College and a B.A. in History of Art from Skidmore College. Carole is also a friend and supporter of the Freer House and keenly interested in the legacy of Charles L. Freer as reflected in Detroit and at the University of Michigan.

Friends of the FREER HOUSE

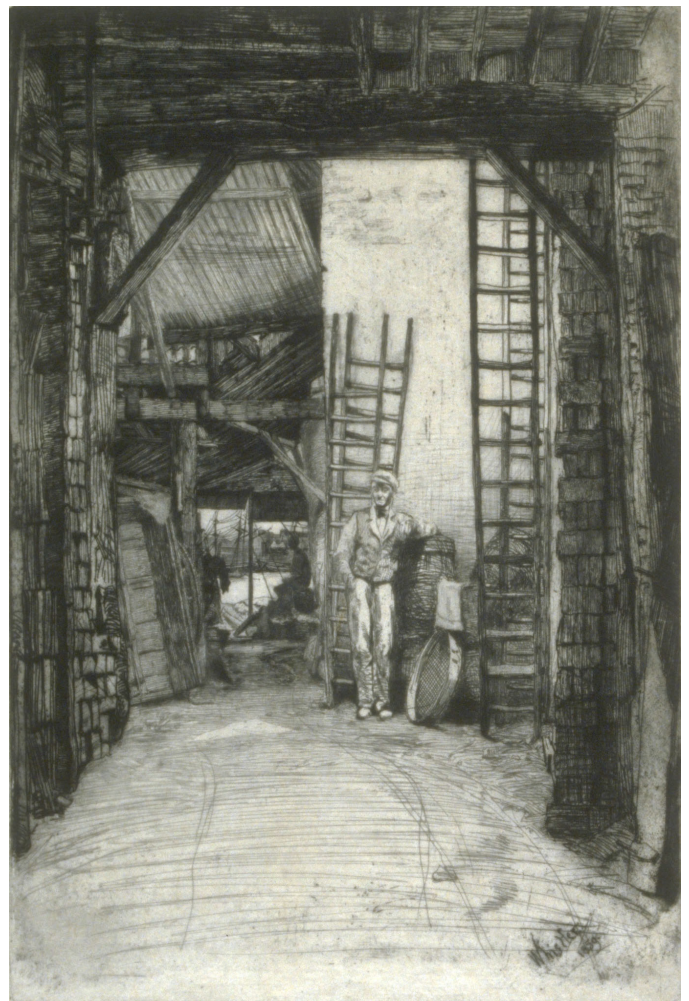
The *Friends of the Freer House* is devoted to raising awareness of the history of Charles Lang Freer and support for the preservation and restoration of the C.L. Freer House. The group is a membership organization affiliated with the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, Wayne State University and is open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

For membership information:
(313) 664-2500

<http://mpsi.wayne.edu/about/friends-freer.php>

Acknowledgements

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The Lime-burner, 1859, James McNeill Whistler, University of Michigan Museum of Art