

NEWS



from the Worcester Art Museum

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEE AND SMELL MONET AT WORCESTER ART MUSEUM **Artful floral arrangements at 8th Annual *Flora in Winter* Celebration**

(WORCESTER, Mass., January 14, 2010) — Claude Monet was inspired by the gardens at his home in Giverny, France, and his paintings of water lilies have inspired art lovers for generations. Visit the Worcester Art Museum to see one of Monet's famous paintings interpreted in fresh flowers at the eighth annual *Flora in Winter* celebration.

After touring the country for five years in a nationwide travelling exhibition, *Water Lilies, Water Landscapes* (1908) is once again on view at the Worcester Art Museum. This painting, along with 22 other artworks from the Museum's collection, has inspired stunning floral arrangements that will be displayed from Thursday, January 28 through Sunday, January 31.

Garden Club members and independent floral designers throughout New England each select an artwork in the Museum's galleries and design a floral arrangement that interprets the art. For four days, all levels of the Worcester Art Museum will be decorated with the beautiful masterpieces and the scent of fresh-cut flowers will fill the air.

"The Museum looks and feels like spring during *Flora in Winter*," said Director of Advancement Brian Barlow. "The vibrant flowers are a refreshing break from the cold, gray weather. Each year the arrangements are more spectacular than the previous year."

Flora in Winter special events include an opening celebration with live music and light hors d'oeuvres; floral arranging workshops; guided tours; a family music-and-puppet show; and an origami-flower workshop. Performances include music by the Blackstone Valley Community

Chorus with the St. Peter-Marian High School Chorus, and by Shrewsbury High School Women's Choir with the Pakachoag Music School of Greater Worcester's Unison of Strings and Violin Ensemble.

Flora in Winter is presented in partnership with Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, Mass. Please visit www.worcesterart.org for a full list of special events.

Located on Salisbury St., in Worcester, Massachusetts, the Worcester Art Museum opened in 1898 and is one of America's most respected art Museums. The Museum is world-renowned for its 35,000-piece collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings and new media.

Worcester Art Museum's presentation of Flora in Winter is generously sponsored by Unum and Flagship Bank and Trust. For more information, visit www.worcesterart.org.

Flora in Winter Special Events Schedule

Opening Celebration: Flora Euphoria

Thursday, January 28, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Renaissance Court/Galleries

\$10 WAM or THBG Members; \$20 nonmembers. No RSVP required.

Arrive on Thursday night to enjoy the flowers at their freshest. Breathe in the aroma of spring, wander the galleries, visit with friends, or just be inspired. Live music, light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar add to the evening's festivities.

Floral Demonstration: Interpretive Challenge

Friday, January 29, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Renaissance Court

Free with admission. No RSVP required.

Watch and learn as arrangers craft interesting floral designs inspired by the Chapter House and Renaissance Court. The finished arrangements will be on view to enjoy for the duration of *Flora in Winter*.

Family Fun: Music with Mr. Kim

Saturday, January 30, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Discovery Gallery

Free with admission. No RSVP required.

Bring your kids and be thoroughly entertained with lively music and a puppet show by Mr. Kim Webster, a consummate musician and puppeteer.

Floral Demonstration: Ikebana Revisited & Updated

Saturday, January 30, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Conference Room

\$10 WAM members; \$25 nonmembers. RSVP by calling (508) 799-4406 ext.3025.

Join WAM instructor and floral designer Kaye Vosburgh as she reveals fresh ideas about Ikebana, the Japanese flower design that focuses the plant's stem and leaves to create a structured shape.

Artist Demonstration

Saturday, January 30, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Lancaster Lobby

No RSVP required. Free with admission.

Join a WAM faculty member as she creates a work of art based on a floral display.

Concert: Choral Music

Saturday, January 30, 4:00 p.m.

Renaissance Court

Free with admission. No RSVP required.

The Blackstone Valley Community Chorus and the St. Peter-Marian High School Chorus will perform choral music under the direction of Diane Pollard.

For Kids of All Ages: Origami Flowers

Sunday, January 31, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Discovery Gallery

Free with admission. No RSVP required.

Learn the fine art of origami from expert Dennis Brannon and create your own folded paper flowers to take home.

Concert: Choir and Violin Ensemble

Sunday, January 31, 2:00 p.m.

Renaissance Court

Free with admission. No RSVP required.

The Shrewsbury High School Women's Choir and Pakachoag Music School of Greater Worcester's Unison of Strings and Violin Ensemble will provide ambience for the final afternoon of *Flora in Winter*.

Public Tours

Free with Museum admission.

Friday, January 29: 12:30 p.m., 1:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 30: 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 31: 12:30 p.m., 1:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m.

For private tours for groups of 10 or more, please call (508) 799-4406 ext. 3130.

Museum and The Museum Shop Hours - *Flora in Winter*

Thursday, January 28: 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Museum re-opens from
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for *Flora Euphoria*
Friday, January 29: 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 30: 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 31: 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Museum Café Hours – *Flora in Winter*

Thursday, January 28: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Friday, January 29: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 30: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. serving lunch; 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
serving prepared plates, desserts, and specialty drinks
Sunday, January 31: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Museum Admission - *Flora in Winter*

Members: FREE
Nonmembers: \$15

Swipe your College or Public Woo Card and earn two points at *Flora Euphoria* and one point at all other *Flora in Winter* events.

Free admission on Saturday, January 30 will be limited to WAM members only. Free Saturday mornings and will resume following *Flora in Winter* 2010.

Free Passes will resume resume are not valid for the duration of *Flora in Winter*.

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WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

Interpretive Floral Designs in the Galleries

First Floor



Ceiling from a Domestic Room, Spanish

Cathy Walsh, Independent

I didn't procrastinate this year, but by the time I picked my artwork, there were only a few-ahem- "challenging" pieces left. This one looked the hardest-so naturally it was mine! As I write this in November, I have NO IDEA which direction I'm going to go in with the flowers-perhaps something graphic and abstract, or a tightly focused detail, but either way I hope you will—look up!



Sarcophagus, French

Virginia Camille Orlando, Independent

What inspired me to select this piece is the mystery and intrigue that a sarcophagus has. The sarcophagus has been used by many cultures to bury the dead; decomposing the flesh of the corpse within it, much like how flowers decompose over time. I find it interesting to interpret something seemingly so macabre, heavy and sharp, with flowers full of beauty, softness and light.



Hygieia, Antioch

Joan R. Moreschi, Shrewsbury Garden Club

I was attracted to this piece with its simple elegant lines. Looking at it, your eye is captured by the folds of her robe, yet they are portrayed by a cold medium. I wanted to recreate the lines and beauty with a flower that seems as cold and unbinding as the marble, and use a few stems that are without flowers, as she has lost some of her parts.



Frieze of Buddhist Figures, India

Elizabeth Call, Stow Garden Club

The strength of the architectural *Frieze* with the many Buddhist figures intrigued my sense of interest in heavenly symbols and legends. With such a diversity of figures shown, I thought it would be a challenge, but fun, to interpret and create a multicolored floral and fruit design depicting the offerings given to Buddha.



Model of Granary, Latter Han Dynasty

Thelma H. Shoneman, Acton Garden Club

I chose the *Model of Granary* because I am fascinated by the models created by the Chinese in preparation for building permanent structures. I also enjoy designing in the oriental manner and arranging with green flowers and foliages of contrasting shapes and textures. The simplicity of the *Model* has inspired me to create a design in the oriental manner using foliage manipulation techniques to create lines and enhance texture in the arrangement.



Boulder with Mountain Landscape and Taoist Sage, Chinese

Meghan E. Harris, Piscataqua Garden Club

I chose this piece for the serenity it evokes. I like the playfulness in the taoist sage's face,—almost telling us not to take things too seriously! Like flower arranging! Have fun with it and create something you think is beautiful.



Head of Mentuhotep III, Egyptian

Brandy Scheibner, Independent

I was drawn to the three dimensional aspect of this limestone sculpture. I have never interpreted this type of art before so I thought I would challenge myself.



Storage Jar (Amphora), Greek

Mary Fletcher, Worcester Garden Club

It is the shape of the storage jar that appealed to me. The softness of a curving line and a rounded shape have always struck me as beautiful. The challenge was to do something interesting with the simplicity of color and the straightforward, uncomplicated design that still carried the weight and significance of the Greek *Amphora*.

Second Floor



Reclining Nude, Kees van Dongen

Susan B. Dewey, Worcester Garden Club, Osterville Garden Club

When I am choosing a work of art to interpret with flowers, I always look for clearly defined lines and textures, a strong emotional impact, and a color palette that can be interpreted with plant material. This painting did all that for me in an instant. I have chosen flowers and a design that I hope embody the painting's luscious satiny hues and the bold sensual contentment of Van Dongen's *Reclining Nude*.



Water Lilies, Claude Monet

Sarah Ribeiro, Worcester Garden Club

Impressionist paintings fascinate me in how the artist saw color and light and transferred it to his canvas. For Monet, it was all about capturing the light and atmosphere at the very moment he was painting. Light, not the water lilies, is the subject of this painting. In *Water Lilies*, the viewer senses calm, peaceful, and dream-like still water. The challenge of interpreting Monet's painting will be to recreate some of the feelings apparent in his painting. Monet once said, "I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers", so how perfect is it to have the Monet back in the gallery and a part of *Flora in Winter*.



Still Life: A Dead Hare, A Dead Red-legged Partridge, and Two Dead Snipe, Jean-Baptiste Oudry

Robin Whitney, Worcester Garden Club

The strong vertical line of the painting attracted me—as well as the very similar color palette of the birds and animals depicted seemed a fun challenge. Also, due to the design of the painting, it seems to me that the container can be hidden. Choosing the right container is one of the hardest parts!



Card Players and Merrymakers, Jacob Duck

Lois Frampton/Barbara Heim, The Garden Club of Harvard, Lincoln Garden Club

This highly symbolic painting by the Dutch artist Jacob Duck includes representations of deception, extravagance, transience, licentiousness, and each of the five senses. We have incorporated many of these same symbols into our arrangement. Look to see if you can find them all.



Paris and Oenone, Pieter Lastman
Kae Collins, Independent

What caught my eye is the abundance of character the painting has: the curving lines of the foliage; the quizzical look on the faces of the goats; and the fact that Paris looks vaguely guilty as if he is not entirely sure he should be groping the nymph.



Interior of the Choir at Saint Bavo's Church at Haarlem, Pieter Saenredam
Tia Lotuff, Worcester Garden Club

When I first saw this painting, I was immediately struck by two things: the luminosity that projected from the church's interior; the other was the very graphic and "clean" feeling of a painting done almost 350 years ago. I hope my arrangement will evoke some of the same feelings for its viewers.



Venus and Cupid, Cornelis van Haarlem
Deborah Coleman/Ruth Gorman/Jackie Potenzone, Hopkinton Garden Club

The colors and luminescence of the artwork captivate our imagination. The contrasting colors in their skin tones represent the innocent and experienced in love. It appeals to our feminine side! We are excited to have the chance to interpret this lovely painting.



Victory of Virtue over Vice, Giovanni de Bologna
Sally E. Jablonski, Independent

I always choose a work of art that speaks to me. *Virtue over Vice*, an epic story, is as timely today as it was yesterday. I chose to interpret this sculpture with intertwining calla lilies and Black Magic Roses to portray the struggle this piece of art represents.



A Miracle of Saint Silvester, Francesco Pesellino
Nancy A. Roberts, Independent

Arrangers are asked to choose a work of art via lottery in early November! Then we are asked to write our intentions for the piece, why we chose it and what we hope to accomplish in the end! Last year I had the "Procrastinator's Choice" because I waited too long and got what was left. And it was fun! I did not wait so long this year, yet feel the same. I have no idea what I will do, but I want it to be fun once again. As someone who loves art and working with flowers and NOT in that order, I did not choose this because it is a fascinating piece, but I liked the lines, colors and perspective feeling it evokes. My wish is that it makes you stop and examine carefully. And where I have "missed it", may your own creative mind and imagination fill in the blanks!

Third Floor



The Meeting of Tobias and Raguel, Cristóbal de Villalpando

Beverly McClure, Independent

My intent is to communicate with flowers and foliage the emotional tension of the embrace with Tobias. I am going to try to keep the floral composition from becoming too busy and to focus primarily on the embrace.



The Alban Hills, George Inness

Kathy Michie, Worcester Garden Club

The newly painted and re-hung American Galleries are what stirred me. I think of the Chase, the Benson and the Homers as being on vacation for a little while, and these amazing landscapes are doing their work. Picking which ones to hang here must have been a tough choice for William Rudolph and his team. Selecting one for *Flora in Winter* seemed impossible, but the Inness has won my heart.



Traveling, Arthur G. Dove

Kim Cutler, Worcester Garden Club

I chose Arthur Dove's *Traveling* because it presented me with two challenges: a horizontal format and subdued natural colors. The layered planes of deep blue, brown, tan and grey go back in space and indicate a subtle movement left to right. I hope to bring this nighttime voyage to life.



Mrs. Francis Welch (Margaret Crease Stackpole), Gilbert Stuart

Ken J. Bositis, Independent

I have always loved the American Decorative Arts gallery and chose this painting for its location. I also feel it will be a challenge to interpret the Gilbert Stuart because the colors are fairly muted except for the brilliant red shawl.

Fourth Floor



Twin Lights, Purple Rocks, John Sloan

Andrea N. Driscoll, Independent

John Sloan was one of the first American painters I grew to admire as a teenager. His vivid use of color and slashes of energy epitomize what I know of many beaches. Nature's raw beauty and appeal never dies and this painting borders on the abstract, allowing us in to the scene in all its glory. I hope that my interpretation honors his skill.



Animal Head, Mexico

Michele Creamer/Sandra Tosches, Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford

Seeing this piece provoked a strong physical reaction. Then arose many questions about its purpose. What was the motivation behind the creation of this fearful visage? Was it to ward off the beast itself, invoke its power, protect the owner, intimidate others, appease the gods? The questions remain, but the challenge to interpret the powerful force of this ceramic head in plant material begins. We feel this is as strong a challenge as the piece itself.

Professional Floral Designs in the Public Spaces

Avantgarden, Wayland: Balcony of Renaissance Court

Bloomer's, Worcester: Chapter House

Danielson Flowers, Shrewsbury: Earle Hall; Renaissance Court; Stephen Salisbury Hall

Floral Elegance, North Grafton: Stephen Salisbury Hall Stair Landings

Flowers from the Heart, Sutton: Sculpture of *Flora* on Balcony of Renaissance Court

Gardens by Lisa, Oakham: Lancaster Lobby

Herbert E. Berg Florist, Inc., Worcester: Lancaster Visitor Services Desk; Newell Posts in Renaissance Court

Holmes-Shusas Florist, Inc. Flower Merchants, Worcester: Renaissance Court

Jeff French Floral and Event Design - The French Bouquet Florist, Worcester: Museum Café Corridor Wall

Mugford's Flower Shoppe, Westborough: Entrance to Museum Shop; Museum Shop; Myles and C. Jean McDonough Court; Stair Landing Between Howard G. & Esther Freman Hall and Myles and C. Jean McDonough Court

Native Landscaping, Charlton: Lancaster Lobby

Virginia Orlando, Freelance Designer, Upton: Balcony of Renaissance Court

The Plant Bazaar Florist, Westborough: Renaissance Court; *Arrangement in pink and gray (afternoon tea)* by Edmund C. Tarbell, Howard G. & Esther Freman Hall

Sprout, Worcester: Restrooms; Salisbury Visitor Services Desk

Worcester Garden Club: Museum Café Tables