



WIENER MUSEUM OF DECORATIVE ARTS · CURRENT EXHIBITS

Dania Beach, FL · November 2019

ART ON FIRE – THE CHIHULY CONNECTION

Dale Chihuly is arguably the most famous glass artist in the world. His name draws vast crowds to site-specific glass installations across the globe as well as to art galleries and museums internationally. The stunning *Art on Fire* exhibit at WMODA presents the creative exuberance of Chihuly's glass art. A fabulous Macchia garden seems to burst into bloom along with impressive Ikebana flower arrangements. A monumental Persian wall is accompanied by Chihuly's paintings for the original installation. Chihuly's luminous Baskets and sensual Seaforms vie for attention with his flamboyant Venetians. A Chihuly Venetian was once described as a vase which has had an affair with a chandelier. Decide for yourself at WMODA!

Chihuly is the most innovative and influential glass artist of modern times, thanks to his teaching, teamwork, and artistic collaborations. Many of his friends, followers and mentors are represented at WMODA, including Toots Zynsky, William Morris, Lino Tagliapietra and Pino Signoretto. Visit the *Art on Fire* exhibit at WMODA and discover how these hot glass artists are all connected to Chihuly and how his favorite cities, Venice and Seattle, are fused together through a shared passion for glass.

CARNIVAL & CABARET

It's party time at the Wiener Museum of Decorative Arts as we celebrate the art of having fun at our exhibition *Carnival & Cabaret*. This entertaining exhibit explores the flamboyant festivals in Venice, Rio and New Orleans as seen by porcelain artists from Europe. The centerpiece is *Carnival in Venice*, a monumental masterpiece full of masked revelers in porcelain by Lladró of Spain. Discover how Harlequin and Columbine and other characters from the Italian Commedia dell'Arte have influenced carnival fun, the art of clowning and masquerade balls through the ages. Masking was particularly popular during the roaring 1920s to disguise the flirtatious behavior of the flappers. Cabaret and variety shows in early 20th century Paris and Berlin also reveled in the theatrical excesses of carnival costumes.

FANTASTIQUE

Fantastique celebrates the enchanted world of ceramic art at WMODA. From myths and monsters to fairies and fables, you will be spellbound by the flights of fancy of European ceramic artists during the last two centuries. Fire-breathing dragons of the Dark Ages do battle with heroic knights or guard the treasures of the Eastern seas. Mermaids and other wonders of the deep beguile mariners while pixies, goblins and other denizens of Fairyland enchant children and adults alike. The mysteries of life and the age-old conflicts between good and evil, darkness and light, life and death are interpreted by sages, seers and truth-seekers in the universal myths of the world. On the dark side, there are macabre witches, wizards, ghosts and ghouls, while good angels and cherubs bring blessings from heaven and cupid's arrow initiates love and new life.

ARDMORE CERAMIC ART

A giant smiling hippopotamus greets you as you enter the contemporary ceramics gallery at the Wiener Museum of Decorative Arts and visitors can't stop smiling in return. The hippo was made by Ardmore Ceramic Arts, a thriving artist collective in the picturesque Midlands of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. The studio was started over thirty years ago by Fée Halsted, a talented ceramic artist who teaches local men and women how to make and decorate pottery. There are now around 70 sculptors and painters in the Ardmore studio making whimsical and uplifting works of art. As well as hippos, the Ardmore exhibition includes many other African animals which burst out of luxuriant foliage to form vibrant vases, tureens and bowls. Ardmore ceramic art is one of the most popular features at the WMODA Museum and it's worth a visit just to see this exhibit.

THE ART OF TEA

Elegant china enriches the tea-drinking experience as can be seen at the *Art of Tea* exhibition at the Wiener Museum of Decorative Arts. Discover how skilled potters have provided the most appropriate tea services to suit all tastes and budgets for the last three centuries. Whether you drink tea hot or cold, using loose leaves or teabags, in the morning, afternoon or evening, you'll be charmed by the sophisticated, ingenious and even quirky designs by Wedgwood, Royal Doulton and other famous makers.

PAUL J. STANKARD ·THE ART OF THE FLAME

In a career that has spanned more than 50 years, Paul Stankard has become the acknowledged master of flame-working. See the stunning *Art of Flame* exhibition spanning his illustrious career at WMODA. Stankard melts thin rods of colored glass with a flame-worker's gas-fueled torch in his New Jersey studio. Perfect petals, pistils, stamens and stems are created with the blue flame and arranged with tweezers into complex clusters of blossoms, berries, and roots. Paul encapsulates these visions of nature into molten glass forms, which are cut and polished to form paperweights, orbs, columns and cubes. His tiny glass flowers and insects are executed so perfectly that they almost seem real. However, his miniature works of art are often fantasies, integrating his interest in botanical realism with mysticism and the cycle of life.

FLIGHTS OF FANCY · BIRDWATCHING IN PORCELAIN

Grab your camera and head to WMODA for some serious birdwatching in porcelain. Bird lovers are in for a treat at the new *Flights of Fancy* exhibition, which features exquisite, life-like avian art by the Boehm and Royal Worcester Porcelain factories. Tropical Toucans and Macaws perch among orchids in bloom while a Flamingo nestles with her young. The Flamingo has become a Florida icon, but few residents see them in the wild. Fortunately, the Boehm porcelain Flamingo was created in association with the Audubon Society and is authentic in every detail. Edward Marshall Boehm was acclaimed as America's finest porcelain artist of birds and was the choice of princes and presidents for over 60 years. Helen Boehm, who marketed her husband's work, once said, "Edward made the birds but I made them fly."

THE ENCHANTED WORLD OF FAIRYLAND LUSTRE

Escape into the enchanted world of Fairyland Lustre at WMODA. Fairyland Lustre ware was designed by Susannah Margareta 'Daisy' Makeig-Jones for Wedgwood in 1915. Her unique vision of a supernatural world was populated by fairies, pixies, imps and elves cavorting in a Celtic twilight of fantasy forests and gardens with trees and cobwebs intricately outlined in gold. Ghosts and demons also haunted Daisy's bizarre imagination and were enthusiastically received by the public until the Wall Street crash in 1929 damaged the luxury goods market. Daisy worked with Wedgwood's complex liquid luster glazes which could be painted on-glaze and fired up to six times to achieve the glimmering rainbow effects. Daisy's iridescent fantasy world continues to dazzle collectors today and Fairyland Lustre ware is as elusive as the fairies themselves. WMODA has the largest collection of Fairyland Lustre on public display in the world.

The Wiener Museum of Decorative Arts is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 5pm. Docent tours are held daily at 11.30am and 2.30pm. Monthly Saturday and Sunday openings for special programs are advertised at www.wmoda.com and in *Highlights*, the museum's monthly e-newsletter.

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