



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 13, 2012

Images available on request

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HOLIDAYS AT HILLWOOD

Russian Winter Festival, wreath making workshops, and hand-made ornaments in the spirit of the exhibition *Prêt-à-Papier* are part of the Christmas splendor at Hillwood this season

Museum Shop offers distinct items at great prices

WASHINGTON—Hand-made paper ornaments and classic holiday greenery bring a festive and traditional holiday feeling to [Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens](#) this year. Seasonal activities provide fun for all ages while crisp winter gardens offer an oasis for visitors to Hillwood looking for an escape from the holiday buzz.

Beginning on Friday, November 23, holiday decorations and greenery adorn the entire estate. In addition to lights, flowers, ribbons, and greenery throughout the gardens and Mansion, décor unique to Hillwood reflects the sophisticated style of its founder [Marjorie Merriweather Post](#). Inspired by Post's holiday tables over the years and featuring exquisite sets from the collection, the Dining and Breakfast Room tables will sparkle with cheerful displays. In a nod to the inventive exhibition [Prêt-à-Papier: The Exquisite Art of Isabelle de Borchgrave](#), on view through the end of the year, Hillwood staff and volunteers created hundreds of paper ornaments and strings of garland to decorate the festive Visitor Center tree.



The [gardens](#) reveal another aspect of their ever-changing beauty during the holiday season. Conifers such as the blue atlas cedar and false cypress show off their evergreen boughs, while holly and witchhazel provide bright spots of color. Pine trees adjacent to the Mansion will be lighted this year to lead the way into the holiday splendor. Seasonal greenery is also the focus of several [workshops](#) in December.

The family highlight of the holiday season at Hillwood is undoubtedly the [Russian Winter Festival](#), on Saturday and Sunday, December 8 and 9. Grandfather Frost and the Snow Maiden are on hand for this celebration of the holidays in Old Russian style.

(more)

Throughout the holiday season, Hillwood's museum shop features a variety of decorations and gifts, including hand-painted Russian egg ornaments and nesting dolls, and a whimsical line of paper ornaments and objects in conjunction with *Prêt-à-Papier*. Two special Sundays also offer visitors the chance simply to immerse themselves in the oasis of Hillwood during the holidays.



Below is a calendar of events at Hillwood for the holiday season.

A Serene Sunday

Sunday, November 25 from 1 to 5 pm

Hillwood offers a gracious start to the holiday season with a day to explore the late fall gardens, see the decorations, shop for special gifts, or have a relaxing lunch in the café with family and friends. Included in suggested donation.

Fabulous Wreath Workshops

Saturday, December 1 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm and 2 to 4:00 pm

Saturday, December 15 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Fresh, fragrant greens handcrafted by you! Take an inspiring walk through the grounds with horticulturist Bill Johnson then create your own wreath of fresh greens to take home. Supplies provided. Limited to 15 people.

\$50, \$40 for Hillwood members

Russian Winter Festival

Saturday, December 8 from 10 am to 5 pm (the Estate will stay open until 7 pm)

Sunday, December 9 from 1 to 5 pm

An annual holiday favorite! Hillwood celebrates the holidays in Old Russian style. A new one-act play based on traditional Russian stories of Grandfather Frost and the Snow Maiden will be performed for the festival this year. After each performance, families can meet Grandfather Frost, Russia's Santa Claus, and his granddaughter the Snow Maiden, and have pictures taken with them. Samovar will play lively winter Russian folk music while actors from Happenstance Theater stroll the estate in character, enacting the old Russian winter custom of *mumming*—dressing up in costume and visiting friends, singing, and playing jokes—and fortunetelling. A hands-on art activity will allow visitors of all ages to create their own *kokoshnik*, a lady's headdress, or traditional Russian gentleman's hat. Shopping and festive dining in the café round out this day of family fun.

\$18, \$15 seniors, \$12 Hillwood members, \$10 students, \$5 children (ages 6-18), free for children under age 6.

Christmas Sale

December 18 to January 20

Enjoy spectacular savings on Christmas merchandise, decorations, and gifts.

(more)

A Serene Sunday

Sunday, December 30 from 1 to 5 pm

A peaceful ending to the holiday season. On this last Sunday of the year, Hillwood offers the opportunity for one final immersion in the holiday splendor and chance to unwind with family and friends.

Included in suggested donation.

Prêt-à-Papier: The Exquisite Art of Isabelle de Borchgrave

Through December 30

Complete your holiday visit to Hillwood with the glamorous paper dresses and costumes in the exhibition *Prêt-à-Papier*. Belgian artist Isabelle de Borchgrave crumples, pleats, and paints ordinary paper to re-create fashion history's most iconic costumes and designs. Every intricate detail, graceful fold, and sumptuous pattern is made completely out of paper. These elaborate works of art are on view for the first time in Washington, D.C., and will only be here for one more month.

Included in suggested donation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Location:** 4155 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC
Metro: VanNess/UDC, Red Line (20 minute walk)
- Information:** (202) 686-5807 for information and reservations or www.HillwoodMuseum.org
- Hours:** Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Select Sundays, 1 to 5 pm. Closed Mondays, most national holidays, and for several weeks in January.
- Café:** The HILLWOOD Café serves lunch Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm.
Afternoon Tea is served on Sundays only from 1 to 3:30 pm.
Express Dining, featuring a quick selection of sandwiches, salads, snacks, and beverages is available Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday from 1 to 4 pm.
Call (202) 686-5807 for café reservations
- Suggested Donation:** \$15, \$12 seniors, \$10 college students, \$5 for visitors age 6 to 18.
No donation is suggested for children under 6.

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One of the premier art collector's museums in the United States, Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens is dedicated to enlightening and engaging visitors with an experience inspired by founder Marjorie Merriweather Post's passion for excellence, gracious hospitality and intent to preserve and share the beauty and history of her collections, garden and estate. Hillwood is set upon 25 acres of gardens and surrounding woodlands in northwest Washington, D.C. Twelve acres of enchanting formal gardens include a Japanese-style garden, a Rose Garden, and a French parterre.