



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Images are available upon request

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HILLWOOD EXTENDS CLOSING DATE OF PRÊT-À-PAPIER

SPECIAL EXHIBITION TO STAY OPEN UNTIL JANUARY 20, 2013

Last chance to see the world of splendor created in paper gowns, dresses, and costumes by artist Isabelle de Borchgrave

WASHINGTON – A record number of visitors has come to the exhibition *Prêt-à-Papier: The Exquisite Art of Isabelle de Borchgrave* at Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, prompting the museum to extend the presentation of these sumptuous paper costumes. Originally scheduled to close on December 30, due to its great popularity, the exhibition will now close on January 20, 2013.

As of December 16, the number of visitors to Hillwood in 2012 reached over 70,000—surpassing last year’s record-setting attendance—and over 30,000 of those have seen *Prêt-à-Papier* since its opening on June 16. Looking toward a busy holiday season, Hillwood wants to ensure that everyone who wants to see *Prêt-à-Papier* has the opportunity to do so.

Washingtonian magazine said of de Borchgrave and the exhibition: “Part couturier, part inventive genius, the Belgian artist has a new exhibition of paper fantasies that proves she’s far more than simply an artist.” For over 15 years, inspired by the rich history of fashion represented in European paintings, famous costumes in museum collections, and designs of the grand couturiers, de Borchgrave has turned her passion for painting to the recreation of elaborate costumes—crumpling, pleating, braiding, and painting the surface of simple rag paper to achieve the effect of textiles and create the illusion of haute couture. This exhibition marks the first time these elaborate works of art have been on view in Washington, D.C.



This year will also be the second in a row that Hillwood will remain open into January. From 2002 until 2011, Hillwood had been closed during the entire month of January in order to take advantage of a quiet season to keep the [Mansion](#) maintained to the pristine standards for which it is known. With ever-increasing demand from audiences, however, the cleaning work in 2013, as in 2012, will take place instead over a ten-day period, from January 21 to February 1, when the estate is closed to the public.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Location:** 4155 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC
Metro: VanNess/UDC, Red Line (20 minute walk)
- Information:** www.HillwoodMuseum.org or (202) 686-5807 for information or visit [Facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum)
- Hours:** Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Select Sundays, 1 to 5 pm.
Closed Mondays, most holidays, and January 21-February 1.
- 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 (cash only) is available Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday from 1 to 4 pm.
Visit www.HillwoodMuseum.org or 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. Home to the foremost collection of Russian imperial art in the United States and impeccable French furnishings and objects, 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.