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Hi res images available upon request

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The Porcelain Flowers of Vladimir Kanevsky

New dates—Now on view April 6 through September 5, 2021

Hillwood's mansion will bloom with a garden of everlasting botanicals

Washington, D.C.—Contemporary artist Vladimir Kanevsky's exquisite flower sculptures will blossom throughout Hillwood's mansion for the special exhibition *The Porcelain Flowers of Vladimir Kanevsky*. Looking forward to spring and a fresh start, the porcelain flowers will now be on view at [Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens](#) from April 6 to September 5, 2021.

Kanevsky has said, "there is everything in flowers—history, drama, structure, beauty, and fragrance," a sentiment Hillwood founder Marjorie Merriweather Post knew well. Post surrounded herself with flowers, creating impressive gardens at her homes and filling the houses with luscious arrangements. Inspired by flowers grown throughout Post's gardens at Hillwood, including camellias, tulips, and dahlias, Kanevsky's sculptures will take the place of these live arrangements, bursting with color in the dining room, breakfast room, pavilion, French drawing room, and Post's bedroom suite.

"Hillwood is Marjorie Post's legacy of beauty, from the gardens to the mansion to the treasures it houses," said Kate Markert, executive director. "There is no better complement than Kanevsky's florals that rival even those of nature. Though flowers are ephemeral, Kanevsky creates objects that will last forever, just like Post did with Hillwood."

Featuring nearly 35 works, the exhibition is next in a series of collaborations with contemporary artists, such as Bouke de Vries in 2019, Philip Haas in 2016, and Isabel de Borchgrave in 2013.



About the Artist

Born in the Ukraine and now based in Fort Lee, New Jersey, Vladimir Kanevsky first began a career as an architect before immigrating to the United States in 1989. His foray into porcelain started with a

tableware project for designer Howard Slatkin, producing a melon in the style of an 18th-century porcelain tureen. Fascinated by botany since childhood, Kanevsky swiftly transitioned to creating flowers in this new medium. “I like flowers because they have a logical structure to them,” he explained, “It’s like architecture.” Each flower sculpture is fashioned by hand—Kanevsky shapes, paints, fires, and assembles each piece, petal by petal.

Among Kanevsky’s notable accomplishments are an 11-piece exhibition with the Meissen Porcelain Manufactory in 2012 and a 2017 exhibition at the State Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia. His major collectors include Tory Burch, Nili Rothschild, Oscar de la Renta, Charlotte Moss, and Deeda Blair.

The Art of Porcelain

Drawing inspiration from botanical prints, backyard plants, and antique porcelain, Kanevsky has a particular passion for 18th-century models that elevated porcelain flowers to an art form. As Mitchell Owens stated in a 2010 introduction to Kanevsky: “If Madame de Pompadour were alive today, the taste-making mistress of French king Louis XV would surely be haunting [his] Fort Lee, New Jersey, studio.” The meticulously crafted flowers seem magical, as at home today as they would have been during the mid-18th century, “a place where exquisite artifice held center stage in art as in life.”

His pieces will be perfectly at home amid Hillwood’s treasures from this period, including vases, figurines, flowers, and more. Post’s collection of porcelain is renowned, particularly for its diversity.

“Marjorie Post maintained a lifelong love of porcelain, especially that from the 18th century,” noted Wilfried Zeisler, chief curator. “She collected pieces with delicate decoration, harmony, and superb craftsmanship. Vladimir Kanevsky’s modern interpretation of this antique art form would certainly have caught her eye and fits right in with her fabulous collection.”



Additional Displays

To extend the interaction between Kanevsky’s floral arrangements and Hillwood, pieces from Marjorie Post’s collection, particularly 18th-century works adorned with porcelain flowers, marquetry, and silk floral design, and works by Fabergé, will be highlighted throughout the mansion. Examples from Hillwood will reflect Kanevsky’s fascination with porcelain blooms from the 18th century.

Curator

Dr. Wilfried Zeisler is Hillwood’s chief curator. He is a graduate of Sorbonne University and the Ecole du Louvre, Paris. Wilfried has written extensively on the decorative arts in France and Russia,

including a 2010 book on ceramics and several articles. Wilfried's dissertation, *L'Objet d'art et de luxe français en Russie (1881-1917)* [French Object d'art and Luxury Goods in Russia], was published in 2014. He has participated in and curated exhibitions in France and Monaco. At Hillwood, he was the curator of *Splendor and Surprise: Elegant Containers, Antique to Modern* (2015), *Konstantin Makovsky: The Tsar's Painter* (2016), *Fabergé Rediscovered* (2018), and *Natural Beauties: Exquisite Works of Minerals and Gems* (2020). Wilfried co-authored and authored, respectively, the exhibitions' accompanying books: *Konstantin Makovsky: The Tsar's Painter in America and Paris* (2015) and *Fabergé Rediscovered* (2018).

Events and Programs

The Porcelain Flowers of Vladimir Kanevsky inspires an array of programs and events throughout the presentation of the exhibition. A special opening event on Thursday, April 22, 2021, will celebrate the beauty of the exhibition.

About Hillwood

When art collector, businesswoman, social figure, and philanthropist Marjorie Merriweather Post left to the public her northwest Washington, D.C. estate, she endowed the country with the most comprehensive collection of [Russian imperial art](#) outside of Russia, an [exquisite 18th-century French decorative art collection](#), and 25 acres of serene landscaped gardens and natural woodlands. Opened as a public institution in 1977, today Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens offers a gracious and immersive experience unlike any other. Highlights of the collection include Fabergé eggs, Russian porcelain, Russian orthodox icons, Beauvais tapestries, and Sèvres porcelain, and Post's personal collection of apparel, accessories, and jewelry. Thirteen acres of enchanting formal gardens include a [japanese-style garden](#), [rose garden](#), [French parterre](#), and an orchid-filled [greenhouse](#).

General Information

Location: 4155 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC
Metro: Van Ness/UDC, Red Line (20 minute walk)

Information/Tickets: 202-686-5807 for information or www.HillwoodMuseum.org
Facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum

Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mondays, most holidays, and for several weeks in January.

Café: Merriweather To Go, featuring a quick selection of sandwiches, salads, snacks, and beverages, is available Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to

3 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Ticketing:

Advanced reservations are required to minimize physical contact and practice social distancing. No reservations will be taken on site.

Reservations are by timed entry and are limited in order to manage safe capacity.

\$18, \$15 seniors, \$10 college students, \$5 for visitors age 6 to 18.

No donation is suggested for children under 6.

Adults and seniors receive \$3 off the suggested donation for weekday visits and \$1 off for weekend visits when reservations are made online.

Members receive free admission to visit the estate during regular operating hours. To join visit <http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/join>

For more information visit <http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/hours-and-tickets>

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