



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Hi res images available upon request

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**Contemporary ceramicist brings provocative interpretation of 18<sup>th</sup>-century porcelain to Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens**  
**A program on April 21 celebrates the collaboration**

Washington, D.C.—Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens has collaborated with artist Chris Antemann in conjunction with the special exhibition, *The Luxury of Clay: Porcelain Past and Present*, which explores the journey of hard-paste porcelain from its origins to today. This spring, on Thursday, April 21, Hillwood will host a [virtual conversation](#) with Antemann, who is known for her frolicking feminist parodies of 18<sup>th</sup>-century porcelain, as the last program in *The Luxury of Clay* lecture series.

Over a period of 18 months, Antemann worked with Dr. Rebecca Tilles, Hillwood’s curator of 18<sup>th</sup>-century Western European art, to develop two of her most complex works to date, inspired by Marjorie Merriweather Post’s collection and the luxurious gardens at Hillwood. Titled *An Occasion to Gather* and *A Stage for Dessert*, the elaborate ceramic centerpieces are on view in the dining and breakfast rooms on the first floor of the mansion, interspersed with objects from Hillwood’s permanent collection. The installation is the fourth in a series of Hillwood collaborations with contemporary ceramicists including Eva Zeisel (2005), Bouke de Vries (2019), and Vladimir Kanevsky (2021).

Tilles and Antemann explored many decades of highly skilled artistry in the beautiful objects Post collected and preserved at Hillwood. The resulting works reveal a perfect intersection of historical design and contemporary revision. Of the process, Antemann said, “I worked with [Tilles] to pinpoint those objects in the collection which spoke to me. [From] the elaborate dining services laced with golden Baroque ornament, the deep pink of the upholstery, [and] the rug of roses, to the French parterre inhabited by beguiling statues, all of this swirled in the back of my mind while planning two of my most ambitious sculptures.”

In the [Virtual Artist’s Talk with Chris Antemann](#), Antemann will describe the development of her artwork inspired by 18<sup>th</sup>-century porcelain figures and discuss how she drew inspiration from Hillwood’s French parterre, porcelain collection, and interiors. She will explain how she crafts new narratives from historical forms, informed by her ten-year collaboration on unique and limited edition artworks with Meissen, Europe’s oldest porcelain manufactory.

“A decade of collaboration with the talented artisans at the Meissen Porcelain Manufactory gave me the courage and technical experience to complete the largest and most complex

centerpieces in porcelain in my U.S. studio. I am grateful to Hillwood for offering their support and giving me the honor and privilege to make this personal dream and challenge come to fruition," said Antemann.

Broadcast live via Zoom, this enlightening program can be enjoyed from the comfort of home. *The Luxury of Clay*, and Antemann's centerpieces, will remain on view through Sunday, June 26.

### **About the Artist**

[Chris Antemann](#) (b. 1970), an Oregon-based artist, is known for her work inspired by 18<sup>th</sup>-century porcelain figurines. She constructs intricately detailed groups of porcelain figures unified by designs and concepts that reinvent and reinvigorate the figurative tradition of Europe's great porcelain manufactories. Elaborate dinner parties, picnic luncheons, and ornamental gardens serve as stages for the figurines in her creations, which simultaneously examine and parody male and female relationship roles within intimate and playful vignettes of seduction. Antemann's figures convey narratives of domesticity, social etiquette, and taboos while making formal references to eighteenth-century Meissen figurines.

Antemann produced two porcelain *surtouts de table* (centerpieces) for presentation in Hillwood's dining and breakfast rooms for the exhibition *The Luxury of Clay: Porcelain Past and Present*. Inspired by the museum's porcelain collection and gardens, these sculptural tableaux represent some of Antemann's largest and most ambitious works to date.

Antemann has exhibited extensively in Asia, Europe, and the United States, and her work can be found in a number of private and public collections. She has held residencies through the Archie Bray Foundation and the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, the latter residency funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. For the past ten years, Antemann has collaborated with Meissen, Europe's oldest porcelain manufactory, to produce unique and limited edition artworks. The experience provided Antemann the opportunity to create her largest installation, *Forbidden Fruit: Chris Antemann at Meissen* (2012), which traveled for three years in the United States, culminating in an exhibition at the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, in 2019. Antemann's work will be exhibited at the Venice Biennale in spring 2022 and then at the Meissen Museum, from July 2022 to March 2023, in an exhibition celebrating the tenth anniversary of the collaboration between the artist and the manufactory.

### **Details**

#### **[Virtual Artist's Talk with Chris Antemann](#)**

Thursday, April 21, 2022, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

\$10, Free for Hillwood members

[www.HillwoodMuseum.org](http://www.HillwoodMuseum.org)

4155 Linnean Ave NW, Washington, D.C. 20008

## About Hillwood

When art collector, business executive, 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 18<sup>th</sup>-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 <a href="http://www.HillwoodMuseum.org">www.HillwoodMuseum.org</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum">Facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum</a>
Hours:	Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mondays, most holidays, and for several weeks in January.
Café:	Merriweather Café offers full-service dining Tuesday through Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Merriweather To Go, featuring a quick selection of sandwiches, salads, snacks, and beverages, is available Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Ticketing:	\$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 <a href="http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/join">http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/join</a> For more information visit <a href="http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/hours-and-tickets">http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/hours-and-tickets</a>

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