



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Hi-res images available upon request

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***Glass: Art. Beauty. Design.***

**On view June 10, 2023 through January 14, 2024**

**Dive into the captivating world of glass—featuring art, history, design, and more—from antiquity to today**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The special exhibition [\*Glass: Art. Beauty. Design.\*](#), on view at [Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens](#) from June 10, 2023 through January 14, 2024, will explore the fascinating world of glass and its use in both everyday life and as art.

Transparent or opaque, fragile yet impervious, glass has inspired artists and designers, stimulated scientists and engineers, and captivated collectors with its beauty and practicality. Hillwood founder Marjorie Merriweather Post was no exception, and she amassed over 1,600 pieces of glass, created in the 17th-20th centuries in Europe, Russia, and the United States. This special exhibition will highlight this lesser-known aspect of Hillwood's collection, featuring a range of styles and techniques, while placing the historic creations in dialogue with astounding contemporary artworks.



"Though the material most associated with Hillwood may be porcelain, Marjorie Post did not discriminate by medium when it came to collecting, as long as items were beautiful and exquisitely made," said Kate Markert, Hillwood's executive director. "This is demonstrated in Hillwood's robust collection of glass, ranging from drinkware to lighting, from decorative objects to furniture. As glass has continued to intrigue and inspire through the ages to today, we were excited to examine and present this subset of Hillwood's holdings."

**Glass in Hillwood's Collection**

First made in Mesopotamia and Egypt, glass has been produced in different forms and with various techniques for over 3,500 years, now used in most societies throughout the world. Though made of simple ingredients—sand (silica) with additive (plant ash or natron, a type of salt) to lower sand's fusion temperature, and lime to stabilize it—it is a challenging material that requires innovation and dexterity, though the creative possibilities are endlessly versatile.

Accordingly, Hillwood's collection includes glassware, decorative vases, candelabras, chandeliers, mirrors, and more, all of which speak to Marjorie Post's love of entertaining and interior design. *Glass* will explore the depth and breadth of Post's collection of historic pieces, placed alongside loans, and will contextualize the history of glass-making techniques. Additionally, the special exhibition will explore Post's appreciation of early American glass for the first time, with objects that, as her daughter Eleanor Post Close once described, she "loved and collected for many years." Among the highlights on view will be rare monumental candelabras, from the famous Baccarat glassworks, which have not been on view since the 1930s.

### **Contemporary Displays**

Contemporary pieces on loan for the exhibition, by artists Karen LaMonte, Beth Lipman, Debora Moore, Joyce Scott, Tim Tate, and Fred Wilson, will highlight the enduring fascination with glass and developments in the landscape of glass art. Works by artists Karen LaMonte and Joyce Scott speak to Post's love for fashion and beadwork, while a sculpture by Beth Lipman will replace a historic table collected by Post. Enchanting glass orchids by Debora Moore will be juxtaposed with Hillwood's fresh flower arrangements on view.

### **Exhibition Organization and Highlights**

*Glass* will present an impressive array of art and utilitarian objects, exploring the breadth of the material and the depth of Hillwood's collection. More than 300 items, ranging from the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> century to today, will demonstrate the innovation and talent of artists and designers throughout the world in working with this challenging medium.

Organized into five sections, it will open with an exploration into "What is glass?," looking at the material's properties and uses. Objects on view will range from bowls and vases to lighting vessels to a magnifying glass and a daguerreotype, representing the scope of glass.

The exhibition will then present Hillwood's collection of glass, organized by region. This includes Italy, Bohemia, Russia, France, and the United States. Additionally, there will be features on glass furniture and pieces inspired by nature.

Next will be a small gallery focused on drinking vessels, perhaps the most common use of glass today. Subsections include champagne, water, wine, liqueur, cocktail, and more, in an extraordinary array of shapes and colors. Glass has also been used to create commemorative pieces, highlighted in a following segment. These items feature monograms, coats of arms, and portraits, celebrating both individuals and events.

The section focused on lighting devices will include glittering candelabras and chandeliers. In a first for Hillwood, the magnificent Russian chandelier from the breakfast room will be removed



from the mansion and displayed in the Adirondack building to offer greater access to the piece. A brilliant example by contemporary artist Fred Wilson will take its place.

The exhibition will conclude with a section titled “This is made of glass!,” highlighting the sometimes surprising forms into which the materials are transformed. From fashion to decorative objects, glass has permeated a variety of fields due to its versatility and beauty, as seen in the objects on view.

### **Curator**

Dr. Wilfried Zeisler is Hillwood’s deputy director and chief curator. He is a graduate of Sorbonne University and the Ecole du Louvre, Paris. Wilfried has written extensively on French and Russian decorative arts, including a 2010 book on French ceramics commemorating the French-Russian Alliance, several articles, and contributions to books. Wilfried’s dissertation, *L’Objet d’art et de luxe français en Russie (1881-1917)* [*French Objets d’art and Luxury Goods in Russia*], was published in Paris in 2014. Since 2009, he has participated in and curated exhibitions in Paris, Monaco, and Washington, D.C. At Hillwood, his most recent exhibitions were *Fabergé Rediscovered* (2018), *Bouke de Vries: War and Pieces* (2019), *Natural Beauties: Exquisite Works of Minerals and Gems* (2020), *The Porcelain Flowers of Vladimir Kanevsky* (2021), and *Determined Women: Collectors, Artists, and Designers at Hillwood* (2023). Wilfried co-authored *Konstantin Makovsky: The Tsar’s Painter in America and Paris* (2015), and is the author of *Fabergé Rediscovered* and *Vivre la Belle Epoque à Paris—Paul de Russie et Olga Paley*, both published in 2018. He is the co-author, with Hillwood’s curatorial team, of a new book focusing on the collections of Hillwood’s founder, Marjorie Post, *The Houses and Collections of Marjorie Merriweather Post: The Joy of It*, published by Rizzoli in October 2022.

### **Events and Programs**

*Glass: Art. Beauty. Design.* will inspire an array of programs and events throughout the presentation of the exhibition.

A benefit celebration, *Light Up the Night*, will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023. Inspired by Marjorie Post’s grand affairs at Hillwood, the evening will include cocktails and a glamorous dinner on the Lunar Lawn in honor of Post’s singular style and in support of Hillwood’s mission to share her cultural treasure with future generations.

In October, a four-part lecture series will feature a rich array of speakers and delve deeper into the world of glass.

### **Press Preview**

A press breakfast and preview is planned for Tuesday, June 6, 2023. Invitation to follow.

### **Exhibition Sponsors**

*Glass: Art. Beauty. Design.* is supported by The Marjorie Merriweather Post Foundation, Ellen MacNeille Charles, Northern Trust, Mary Hale Corkran, Lucy S. Rhame, Martha R. Johnston and Robert T. Coonrod, Carolyn Billinghamurst and Carol Bresler, Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Dudley, Jr., Ms. Nedenia Rumbough and Mr. Jan Roosenburg, Kyra Cheremeteff and Thomas W. Richardson, Linda and Bill Goldman, and Richella and Jack Parham. All exhibitions and programs are funded in part by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts through the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program. This project was supported by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

## 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 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://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 is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Merriweather To Go, featuring a quick selection of sandwiches, salads, snacks, and beverages, is available Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Suggested Donation:	\$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 <https://hillwoodmuseum.org/membership>  
For more information visit <https://hillwoodmuseum.org/visit/opening-hours-tickets>

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