



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hi-res images available upon request

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***Holidays at Hillwood | Making Spirits Bright
November 21, 2023 through January 14, 2024***

The special exhibition *Glass: Art. Beauty. Design.* the inspiration for lavish Christmas trees throughout the mansion.

Festive décor, workshops, and holiday shopping add to the splendor.

WASHINGTON—Fabulous Christmas trees inspired by the special exhibition [*Glass: Art. Beauty. Design.*](#) are the centerpiece of *Making Spirits Bright* at [Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens](#) this holiday season, from November 21, 2023 to January 14, 2024.

Beginning Tuesday, November 21, the beauty of the astounding historical and contemporary works of glass on view permeates the holiday décor that adorns the entire estate. 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, many of which are now placed in dialogue with contemporary artworks. As the exhibition celebrates the incredible achievements, styles, and techniques within the world of glass, so too do the Christmas trees, each inspired by a particular piece on view.

The mansion entry hall will burst into colorful bloom, with a tree inspired by Debora Moore's magnificent glass orchids, which Moore has said are "both a personal meditation on the glorious wonder of nature, as well as a celebration of its power and mastery." This is reflected in Hillwood's gardens, which also applaud nature and offer respite to visitors. The orchid was Marjorie Post's favorite flower, making this an appropriate greeting for guests. The tree will abound with blue ornaments and a mix of pink and white permanent botanicals and live orchids in glass vases.

Dramatic blacks and whites will decorate the dining room, with a tree that takes its cue from contemporary pieces by artists Fred Wilson and Beth Lipman, who both use their work to ask questions about history, culture, race, and society. The glass chandeliers and sculpture will come to life in the tree through graphic black and white ornaments with gold accents and glittering miniature chandeliers to add pops of color and sparkle.

An elegant tree, drawing from the astounding Baccarat Glassworks candelabras in the exhibition, will enhance the French drawing room. These are the perfect pieces to inspire this tree, calling to the French decorative arts theme of the room. Glittering crystal ornaments and an opulent draped crystal garland will shimmer and shine.

The pavilion will feature a vibrant tree representing a piece by artist Tim Tate. Post often held square dances in this room, making it an appropriate home for a tree inspired by Tate's piece, which features dancers on video. Blue and green baubles and orange and yellow roses are taken directly from the work and brighten the room with color. Framed images, drawn from both the art piece and from Marjorie Post's life, will add dimension to the tree.

In the visitor center, a tree explores the themes of clothing, culture, and identity, inspired by the works of Karen LaMonte and Joyce Scott. Gauzy grey fabric wrapped around the tree will represent the incredible drapery of LaMonte's glass figures, complemented by grey, white, and silver ornaments. Bold yellow orbs will harken to Scott's colorful vase on view in the exhibition.

The Holidays at Hillwood

As always, the [gardens](#) at Hillwood reveal the beauty of the holiday season. Conifers such as the blue atlas cedar and false cypress show off their evergreen boughs, while holly and witch hazel provide bright spots of color. Greenery adjacent to the mansion is lighted to lead the way into the holiday splendor. [Wreath workshops](#) brings the holidays from Hillwood to you, inviting participants to craft a one-of-a-kind holiday decoration.

Throughout the season, the [museum shop](#) is a favorite destination for holiday shopping. With dozens of unique items inspired by the life of Marjorie Merriweather Post, in addition to clothing, books, ornaments, and home décor, Hillwood's shop offers distinct gifts for everyone.

The delightful [Merriweather Café](#) is the perfect complement to a day celebrating the holidays at Hillwood. Warm up with seasonal specials and hand-crafted food and beverages served in the gracious manner of Post.

Calendar of events for the holiday season at Hillwood

[Holidays at Hillwood | Making Spirits Bright](#)

November 21, 2023-January 14, 2024

The beauty of historical and contemporary works of glass, as revealed in the special exhibition *Glass: Art. Beauty. Design.*, is the inspiration for glamorous Christmas trees and festive décor across the estate.

Included in suggested donation.

[Virtual Holiday Décor Tour](#)

Tuesday, November 28, 2023, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Immerse yourself in Hillwood's holiday spirit from home and join Ami Wilber, floral and event décor designer, on a virtual tour of the holiday display, inspired by the special exhibition *Glass: Art. Beauty. Design.*

\$5, free for Hillwood members

Visit www.HillwoodMuseum.org to register or call (202) 686-5807 for more information

[Holiday Wreath Workshop](#)

Thursday, November 30, 2023, 10 a.m.-Noon and 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Friday, December 1, 2023, 10 a.m.-Noon and 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 2, 2023, 10 a.m.-Noon and 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 3, 2023, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Craft a traditional, one-of-a-kind holiday decoration of hearty evergreens to enliven your home.

\$75, \$65 Hillwood member

Visit www.HillwoodMuseum.org to register or call (202) 686-5807 for more information

Contemporary Wreath Workshop

Sunday, December 3, 2023, 10 a.m.-Noon

Join Ami Wilber, floral and event décor designer, to create a contemporary, one-of-a-kind holiday wreath to freshen up your seasonal display.

\$75, \$65 Hillwood member

Visit www.HillwoodMuseum.org to register or call (202) 686-5807 for more information

Gardener's Focus Tour | Bones of the Winter Garden

Tuesday, December 12 and 19, 2023, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Friday, December 15 and 22, 2023, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Enjoy some fresh air this holiday season and get an insider's look at Hillwood's gardens. Join Jessica Bonilla, director of horticulture, to explore the peaceful, winter garden, with evergreen and woody plants.

Included in suggested donation.

Virtual Floral Design | Holiday Blooms

Friday, December 15, 2023, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Celebrate the holiday season with a floral arrangement full of luxuriously rich colors and festive blooms.

\$12, free for Hillwood members

Visit www.HillwoodMuseum.org to register or call (202) 686-5807 for more information

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Location:** 4155 Linnean Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008
Metro: Van Ness/UDC, Red Line (20-minute walk)
- Information:** (202) 686-5807 for information or www.HillwoodMuseum.org
[Facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum) or Instagram @HillwoodMuseum
- Hours:** Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Mondays, most national holidays, and for several weeks in January.
- Café:** Merriweather Café offers full-service dining Tuesday through Sunday, 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 5 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 for weekend visits when reservations are made online.

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One of the premier art collector's museums in the United States, Hillwood Estate, Museum & 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. Thirteen acres of enchanting formal gardens include a Japanese-style garden, a rose garden, and a French parterre.