



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hi-res images available upon request

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Holidays at Hillwood: 'Tis the Sea-son
November 26, 2024 through January 5, 2025

The special exhibition *Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean* is 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 *Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean* are the centerpiece of *'Tis the Sea-son* at [Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens](https://www.hillwoodmuseum.org) this holiday season, from November 26, 2024 to January 5, 2025.

Beginning Tuesday, November 26, the elegance of the exquisite treasures on view, which celebrate the oceans and call for their conservation, permeates the holiday décor that adorns the entire estate. The oceans have remained an object of fascination, both treasured and feared, throughout history. As the exhibition demonstrates the beauty of and admiration for these magnificent waters, so too do the Christmas trees, each inspired by a particular piece on view.

The mansion entry hall will sparkle and shine, with a tree inspired by *Le Mariage de Venus*, a glittering pair of heels by Christian Louboutin. Iridescent glass orbs, diamond strands, and white tulle fabric reflect shining ocean waves and the rhinestones of the heels, while pink ornaments, red ribbon, and natural elements, including permanent botanicals, tie the tree to the magnificent color of the shoes and their soles.

Bright oranges, blues, pinks, and yellows will animate the dining room, with a tree that takes its cue from *Aqueduct* by Courtney Mattison, a remarkable installation made of hundreds of porcelain marine creatures. The dining room is always a treasure trove of porcelain pieces in a range of shapes, colors, and sizes, much like Mattison's piece. Colorful baubles will bring the contemporary work to life in the tree.

A remarkable tree, based on Marjorie Merriweather Post's iconic pearl and diamond necklace, will enhance the French drawing room. Draped in pearl garlands and ornaments as well as a variety of pink orbs, which reflect the color scheme of the room and the pearlescent color seen in oysters, the tree will glimmer with the beauty of this material.

The pavilion will feature a waterscape in miniature on top of the piano, anchored by a small tree. Inspired by Morel Doucet's sculpture *Olokun*, the scene will feature blue fabric and blue and white ornaments, reflecting both water and the marine life present in the seas.

In the visitor center, a tree will highlight the importance of sustainability and its focus at Hillwood. Drawn from Théo Mercier's *Squelette (Skeleton)*, which focuses on everyday objects typically thrown away, it will include ornaments made by Hillwood staff with recycled materials, including aluminum cans. Decorated in silvers, greens, and blues, and offset by diamonds, the tree will feature completely recycled pieces, all reused from previous years.

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](#) bring 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 | 'Tis the Sea-son](#)

November 21, 2023-January 14, 2024

The beauty of the exquisite treasures on view in the special exhibition *Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean*, which celebrate the oceans and call for their conservation, is the inspiration for glamorous Christmas trees and festive décor across the estate.

Included in suggested donation.

[Virtual Holiday Décor Tour](#)

Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 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 *Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean*.

\$5, free for Hillwood members

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

[Holiday Wreath Workshop](#)

Thursday, December 5, 2024, 10 a.m.-Noon and 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Friday, December 6, 2024, 10 a.m.-Noon and 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 7, 2024, 10 a.m.-Noon and 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 8, 2024, 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

[Gardener's Focus Tour | Bones of the Winter Garden](#)

Tuesday, December 10 and 17, 2024, 10:30-11 a.m.

Friday, December 13 and 20, 2024, 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 Centerpiece

Friday, December 13, 2024, 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

Onsite Floral Design | Holiday Centerpiece

Saturday, December 14, 2024, 10-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.

Join Ami Wilber, floral and event décor designer, to create a beautiful seasonal floral arrangement, perfect for your holiday table.

\$75, \$65 Hillwood member

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.