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## FALL FOLIAGE MEETS “FOLLIES” AT WINTERTHUR

*Changing Leaves Complement the Whimsical Architecture in the Garden*

Winterthur, DE, September 20, 2018— There is no better time than autumn to stroll the Winterthur grounds as the colors of the season create a striking backdrop to the whimsical and classic garden structures, or “follies,” featured in Winterthur’s first outdoor exhibition, *Follies: Architectural Whimsy in the Garden*. Whether viewing *Follies* for the first time or experiencing it anew, visitors will enjoy seeing the follies combine with colorful fall trees and flowers to create a landscape like none they’ve seen before.

“This is a great place to experience fall color in Delaware,” said Chris Strand, Winterthur’s Brown Harrington Director of Garden and Estate. “It is also a wonderful time of year to explore Henry Francis du Pont’s garden and take in the historic views and vistas of this iconic Brandywine landscape.”

The *Follies* exhibition features 13 whimsical and classic garden structures. Follies are architectural constructions, often extravagant or picturesque, positioned in the landscape to amuse, frame a view, or pique the viewers’ curiosity. Seven new follies designed and constructed for the exhibition are featured with six existing, historic follies placed in the garden by Henry Francis du Pont.

Among the fall highlights Strand anticipates are the reflections of the Needle’s Eye at the entrance pond against the autumn colors of grasses, goldenrod, and asters in flower. Bright orange leaves of shadbush will frame views of the Brick Lookout and Bristol Summerhouse on Sycamore Hill. Thousands of lilac-colored autumn crocus will burst into bloom around the Ottoman Tent. And gardens and woodlands everywhere will flame with the russets, golds, and oranges of ancient red oaks, black oaks, poplars, and beeches.

The new follies feature the work of contemporary architects, based on designs from the 18th and 19th centuries and are a delightful addition to a landscape that has been admired for decades.

**Needle’s Eye** – The Needle’s Eye folly is inspired by a folly constructed in Yorkshire, England, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**Neoclassical Folly** – A common design in gardens, this folly is modeled after the portico or entrance to a Greek temple or public building.

**Mirrored Folly** – This mirror-clad building is inspired by the porte cochere (porch roof) on Winterthur’s train station and reflects the surrounding garden.

**Ottoman Tent** – This folly is an interpretation of an Ottoman tent, a reflection of the fashion for tents and other decorative arts inspired by the Ottoman Empire.

**Gothic Tower** – This folly is a gothic-inspired tower, like a turret you might find on a castle. It is located on Oak Hill, looking toward the Brandywine.

**Chinese Pavilion** – This structure is inspired by the Chinese House at Stowe Landscape Garden in Buckinghamshire. It is one of the earliest surviving structures of its kind in England.

**Green Folly** – The Green Folly is constructed of plant material including tree trunks, beech twig thatching, and other woodland embellishments that reflect the Winterthur landscape.

Existing, historic garden structures featured in the *Follies* exhibition include:

**Latimeria Summerhouse** – Henry Francis du Pont rescued this gazebo from the Latimeria estate in Wilmington. It was installed in the Winterthur Garden according to his instructions in 1929.

**Umbrella Seat and Pagoda Gate** – The Umbrella Seat and Pagoda Gate, also from the Latimeria estate in Wilmington, were installed by Henry Francis du Pont in the 1920s.

**1750 House** – Henry Francis du Pont relocated the façade of this New Castle house to Winterthur in the 1960s. He used it to camouflage the chiller tower.

**Brick Lookout** – The Brick Lookout is a structure that was repurposed by Henry Francis du Pont in 1957 when it was moved to Sycamore Hill.

**Bristol Summerhouse** – Henry Francis du Pont created the Bristol Summerhouse in the 1960s based on a structure he had seen at The Lindens in Bristol, Rhode Island.

**Faerie Cottage** – Enchanted Woods is filled with repurposed items from the Winterthur estate, including iron and stone elements from earlier gardens and house facades that were remodeled and replaced as the household evolved.

*Follies: Architectural Whimsy in the Winterthur Garden* is open dawn to dusk and is included in admission and is free to Members. All follies are accessible by foot or tram on a one-mile loop that takes visitors through the core of the historic Winterthur Garden.

While visiting *Follies*, see more spectacular nature in *Dining by Design: Nature Displayed on the Dinner Table*, an enchanting look at how dinnerware designs have been inspired by nature since the 1600s. It continues through January 6, 2019.

Winterthur—known worldwide for its preeminent collection of American decorative arts, naturalistic gardens, and research library for the study of American art and material culture—offers a variety of tours, exhibitions, programs, and activities throughout the year. General admission includes a tour of some of the most notable spaces in the 175-room house as well as access to the Winterthur Garden and Galleries, special exhibitions, a narrated tram tour (weather permitting), the Campbell Collection of Soup Tureens, and Enchanted Woods children’s garden. \$20 adults; \$18 students and seniors; \$6 ages 2–11.

Museum hours are 10:00 am–5:00 pm, Tuesday–Sunday. Winterthur, located on Route 52, six miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware, and five miles south of U.S. Route 1, is closed on Mondays (except during Yuletide), Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Winterthur is committed to accessible programming for all. For information, including special services, call 800.448.3883, 302.888.4600, or TTY 302.888.4907, or visit [winterthur.org](http://winterthur.org).

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