Ireland Comes to Delaware

THE DELAWARE Antiques Show, presented by Winterthur, returns for its 56th annual edition from November 8–10 at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington, Del. This year the event, famous for its devotion to American antiques, gives a special place to the antiques of Ireland, under the guidance of expert Robert O’Byrne, honorary chair of the show, author of multiple books, and publisher of the award-winning blog The Irish Aesthete. On Friday the 8th O’Byrne will deliver the keynote speech titled “The Irishness of the Irish Country House: A Private Tour,” which will explicate the evolution of such houses via a virtual tour of the countryside. The special exhibition this year will be “Irresistibly Irish: Decorative Arts from the Winterthur Collection.” Works on view include a carved golden buckle, a silver chandelier, and a needlework Bible cover.

On Saturday the 9th, young Winterthur scholars will deliver lectures on a variety of topics. Over 60 dealers from around the U.S. will present their specialties, which include American furniture, paintings, rugs, ceramics, silver, jewelry, and other decorative arts. Among them, Lillian Nassau will display a Tiffany Studios Dragonfly table lamp from 1903, as well as a White Wisteria table lamp from 1902–03. Tiffany silver will star at the booth of Shrubbsole, which will feature a silver and mixed-metal Japanese-style perfume bottle, circa 1880, and a similar Japanese-style vase, circa 1886. Both are by Tiffany & Company. Somerville Manning will have an oil on canvas Floral Still Life by Henriette Wyeth, a 2018 oil on panel landscape painting by Timothy Barr titled Penny Farm, and a selection of fanciful animal-shaped bronze candelabra by Rikki Mosley Saunders.

Sculpture for Living

EVERY PIECE OF furniture Judy Kensley McKie produces starts with an illustration. Evocative works in their own right, these drawings shed light on the figurative quality of McKie’s playful yet bold furniture. A leading figure in the American studio furniture movement, McKie infuses inspiration from modernism, indigenous cultures, and contemporary art into her three-dimensional pieces. She works in carved and painted wood, cast bronze, marble, stone, and resin. Often depicting totemic animal forms, McKie’s pieces register as sculptural before they reveal their functionality.

“Judy Kensley McKie” opens at Boston’s Gallery NAGA on November 2. The show, which runs through December 14, features works like Monkey Table, a 2018 piece of cast bronze and glass that McKie made in an edition of 12. Two seated monkeys hold the table’s top, their curling tails forming a graceful arabesque. With its refined curves and polished surface bring an updated Josef Hoffmann to mind. The horse form in Pony Table, a 2018 cast bronze work (in an edition of eight), with its thin, curving limbs, is reminiscent of the stylized equestrian images in the art of ancient Greece. Meanwhile, Flower Cabinet, a sunny 2017 work of carved basswood and milk paint, evokes both the Arts & Crafts movement and traditional American country painted furniture.