

WINTERTHUR ANNOUNCES COSTUMES OF DOWNTON ABBEY OPENING IN SPRING 2014

Designs from the Award-Winning Television Series To Be Showcased in Winterthur-Curated Exhibition

Winterthur, DE—*Costumes of Downton Abbey*, an original exhibition of designs from the award-winning television series, will be on display at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library March 1, 2014, through January 4, 2015. It has been heralded as a masterful addition to Winterthur's rich exhibition roster, which includes *Common Destinations: Maps in the American Experience*, on display through January 5, 2014, and *The Look of Love: Eye Miniatures from the Skier Collection*, debuting September 21, 2013, through January 5, 2014.

Winterthur's curators will create the exhibition so that visitors experience the fictional world of *Downton Abbey* and the contrasting world of Winterthur founder Henry Francis du Pont and his contemporaries in the first half of the 20th century.

"Winterthur is delighted to add this artistic and historical masterpiece to our already outstanding schedule of major exhibitions for the coming year," said Winterthur Director David Roselle. "*Costumes of Downton Abbey* will not only showcase authentic designs from the series that has taken America by storm but also provide a remarkable educational experience by holding up a mirror to both places and societies. We think it's going to be a real treat."

A co-production of Carnival Films and Masterpiece, *Downton Abbey* depicts life in an aristocratic household of the fictional Earl and Countess of Grantham and is one of the most popular and critically acclaimed period dramas ever produced. It has won a Golden Globe Award for Best Miniseries and seven Emmys including a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Miniseries. It was the most watched television series in both the UK and US and subsequently became the most successful British costume drama series since the 1981 television serial *Brideshead Revisited*. By the third series, it had become one of the most widely watched television shows in the world. The Guinness World Records recognized *Downton Abbey* as the most critically acclaimed English-language television series of 2011.

Approximately 35 historically accurate costumes from the television show will be displayed in Winterthur's largest gallery space. The costumes will be supplemented by photographs and vignettes inspired by the fictional program and by real life at Winterthur.

The costumes are lent by Cosprop, the world's leading costumier to film, television, and theater. Winterthur's most popular exhibition, *Fashion in Film*, which attracted more than 42,000 people over its three-month run, also featured costumes by Cosprop.

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Winterthur—known worldwide for its preeminent collection of American decorative arts, naturalistic garden, 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 the Enchanted Woods children's garden. \$18 adults; \$16 for students and seniors; \$5 for ages 2–11. Tickets are valid for two consecutive days.

Museum hours

10 am–5 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 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.



WINTERTHUR

Winterthur, Delaware 19735

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Winterthur has much to see in 2013. Its current exhibition, *Common Destinations*, takes visitors on a fascinating journey through the 18th and 19th centuries to explore how America's identity was inextricably linked to maps. It features more than 100 items rarely seen from Winterthur's collections, including traditional maps on paper and images of maps on objects such as fans, ceramics, playing cards, puzzles, powder horns, globes, and more.

Coming this fall is *The Look of Love*, a unique exhibition on loan from the Birmingham Museum of Art featuring hand-painted portraits of individual eyes. The trend for this art form, fragile watercolors on tiny pieces of ivory ensconced in myriad jewelry forms, dates to the late 18th century and began with a love story. Finely crafted in miniature and set in exquisite forms, both decorative and functional, each tiny eye portrait harbors enchanting stories of secret romance and love lost.

Winterthur's popular seasonal offerings of Spring Tour, Historic Autos, Point-to-Point, and Yuletide will be thematically linked to *Costumes of Downton Abbey* in 2014.

In addition, Winterthur will host a wide range of lectures, workshops, and events, including programs for adults and families focusing on entertaining and country house life.

Winterthur Members will be offered special programs and times of exclusive access throughout the run of *Costumes of Downton Abbey*. In conjunction with the exhibition, Winterthur will republish, with all new color photography, its popular and out-of-print book, *Life at Winterthur: A du Pont Family Album*.

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