

WINTERTHUR



Winterthur Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **A New Exhibit Reinterprets History Through a Woman's Lens**

Re-Visioning Objects from the Winterthur Collection

Winterthur, DE, February 27, 2020—Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library recognizes the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage with *Re-Vision 20/20: Through a Woman's Lens*.

Drawing upon Winterthur's vast collections, the exhibit highlights objects and manuscripts that were once solely interpreted in relation to men's stories but are now re-visioned through the lens of women's history. *Re-Vision 20/20* is not about just about admiring the diverse and intriguing collection Winterthur has to offer. It is, more importantly, about exploring the collection through a new lens to unravel old mysteries and forgotten stories.

Throughout the exhibit, visitors will encounter unexpected stories and objects associated with gender, race, politics, religion, and celebrity, and learn about women who were creators, disruptors, influencers and thinkers. Some have long been forgotten by history. Others may be more familiar. From the male-impersonator Ella Wesner, whose persona "Champagne Charlie" graced music halls in both Europe and America, to unknown native American entrepreneurs who masterfully crafted baskets for the tourist trade to Shaker women who saw celibacy as a liberation that allowed them to work, we discover that there is still much to learn about women of the past and that those stories are relevant today.

At the center of the exhibit is a portrait by an unknown artist of an unknown woman who has long been a historical Jane Doe. She serves as a powerful metaphor for the fate that many women have faced as their histories, significant during their lifetimes, are now largely forgotten. A blank silhouette of a woman, surrounded by question marks, invites visitors to think about the women's stories that are not represented in the galleries and whose histories should be told.

“In creating this exhibit, all of us were profoundly aware that the Winterthur collection does not represent many important women’s stories that need to be told. This exhibit is a step toward acknowledging those blanks and filling them in the future,” said Alexandra Deutsch, Winterthur’s Director of Museum Engagement.

A printed guide will help visitors explore the galleries, and an app will provide additional information about the objects on view. Guests can journey through the galleries with a decoding glass that reveals hidden messages in the exhibition labels.

To continue the celebration of women’s history, visitors can further explore the Winterthur collection with a new tour that focuses on Ruth Wales du Pont, wife of Winterthur’s founder, Henry Francis. Winterthur programs in 2020 will also offer a broad perspective on women’s narratives represented in the collections and landscape of the estate, as well as in the broader community. A series of lectures on Tuesdays from March 3 through April 28 will complement *Re-Vision 20/20* by featuring such influencers as Jacqueline Kennedy, Eleanor Roosevelt, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and others.

### **ABOUT WINTERTHUR MUSEUM, GARDEN & LIBRARY**

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 Henry Francis du Pont’s former home 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.

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) and Thanksgiving. Museum hours are 10:00 am–5:00 pm, Tuesday–Sunday. \$20 for adults; \$18 for students and seniors; \$6 for ages 2–11. Memberships are available for free and discounted admission. 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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