Winterthur Garden Commemorated on a Postage Stamp

The 70-acre garden designed by Henry Francis du Pont that surrounds his house, museum, and library at Winterthur, Delaware, is one of ten classic gardens illustrated on a new pane of 20 postage stamps. The stamps feature ten different photographs of country estates and municipal gardens, taken between 1996 and 2014 by Allen Rokach and selected and designed by art director Ethel Kessler. The Winterthur stamp features a photograph of azaleas blooming around the reflecting pool in the formal garden designed by du Pont’s close friend Marian Coffin, a pioneering woman landscape architect.

“Winterthur is...grateful that it will share the beauty of our historic gardens with the nation,” said Carol B. Cadou, the Charles F. Montgomery Director and CEO of Winterthur. The other gardens featured on the stamps are: Ullman Estate Gardens (North Carolina); Brooklyn Botanic Garden (New York); Chicago Botanic Garden (Illinois); Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens (Maine); Dumbarton Oaks Garden (Washington, D.C.); The Huntington Botanical Gardens (California); Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park (Florida); Norfolk Botanical Garden (Virginia); and Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens (Ohio).

According to a press release, the Winterthur garden “is internationally renowned for its distinctive color schemes, remarkable specimen trees, and unique palette of plants, which created an aesthetic that was unique among American gardens of its time.”

Carr Is Headed West

Dennis Carr has been named the Virginia Steele Scott Chief Curator of American Art at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California. In his current role as the Carolyn and Peter Lynch Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Carr has been recognized for working to expand the collection of Latin American and Native American works and for curating exhibitions that explore non-Western influences on art made in the United States.

Carr will join The Huntington in January. He will oversee a collection of items from the Colonial period to the present—paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings, photographs, and works of decorative art. “American art is one of the great strengths of our collection, and we want to build on the extraordinary platform we have by expanding the narratives in our galleries and allowing more voices to help us tell the story,” said Christina Nielsen, the Hannah and Russell Kully Director of the Art Museum at The Huntington. “Dennis is well poised to further that aim. He has made extraordinary strides exploring America in the broadest sense and has proven he can think creatively and inclusively. I’m confident he will help us amplify our strengths while helping us consider what is meant by ‘American’ going forward.”

Carr has served as a curator at MFA, Boston since 2007. His accomplishments there include the 2010 Art of the Americas Wing, for which he was part of the curatorial team for a major reinstallment that reoriented American art with a hemispheric focus. He also furthered efforts to expand the collections of American, Latin American, ancient American, and Native American art. His recent exhibitions include Made in the Americas: The New World Discovers Asia (2013), Collecting Stories: Native American Art (2018), and Cecilia Vicuña: Disappeared Quipu (2018). He was a 2019 fellow at the Center for Curatorial Leadership in New York City.

“I am thrilled with this opportunity to develop and activate The Huntington’s important collection of American art,” said Carr. “It contains not only a superb selection of works representing a range of media and voices, but it is also a relatively young collection, flexible in its terms of range, and ripe for growth and new interpretations.”

Carr will take the helm from James Gilsson, the Bradford and Christine Mishler Associate Curator of American Art, who has been serving as chief curator on an interim basis since April 2018.

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