Follies Bring The Exhibition Outdoors At Winterthur's First Garden Show

WINTERTHUR, DEL. — Thirteen fantastic structures — from a Gothic-inspired tower and an Ottoman tent to American summerhouses and a faerie cottage — await exploration in “Follies: Architectural Whimsey in the Garden.” Winterthur’s debut garden exhibition, opening April 1, offers a destination for visitors to discover and experience the Winterthur Garden.

A folly is a structure placed in a garden or landscape, built primarily for decoration, but suggesting through its appearance some other purpose. Follies amuse the observer, frame a vista or picnic the viewer’s curiosity. Follies are often placed to create a destination for visitors as they explore a garden or estate.

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A sense of place in the garden is so important to the overall design, curving rather than straight, following the contours of the land, passing around trees, drawing walkers into the garden. The garden itself is a perfect setting for follies.

Needle’s Eye — Inspired by a folly constructed in the Eighteenth Century in Yorkshire, England, the Needle’s Eye floats on a pond adjacent to Winterthur’s main drive, creating reflections in the water and capturing visitor’s interest as they enter the estate.

Neoclassical Folly — This structure is modeled after the portico, or entrance, to a Greek temple or public building and is common in garden architecture. The formality of the structure contrasts sharply with Winterthur’s meadow surrounding it.

Gothic Tower — This gothic-inspired folly is similar to the lesser-known, but important mural print of “Aspens, Northern New Mexico,” to the lesser-known, but important mural print of “Waterwheel Falls, Yosemite,” unique in this size.

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