

THE DILIGENT NEEDLE OPENS AT WINTERTHUR IN AUGUST

Exhibition Showcases the Evolution of Needlework and its Role in Women's Lives

WINTERTHUR, DELAWARE—WHAT: *The Diligent Needle: Instrument of Profit, Pleasure, and Ornament*

WHEN: Saturday, August 23, 2014—Sunday, July 5, 2015

WHERE: East Gallery, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, 5105 Kennett Pike, Winterthur, DE 19735

BACKGROUND: For centuries, instruction in needlework was an important part of women's education. Both plain sewing and fancy embroidery are skills that take considerable time and effort to acquire, and as a result, many women took great pride in their work. Women might use their skill to earn a living through teaching or sewing, to create objects of beauty for themselves and for others, or to embellish clothing and household furnishings.

This exhibition showcases the evolution of needlework and the prominent role it played in women's lives during the 17th through 19th centuries. It opens with the diligence and skill required to learn and excel at needlework and delves into the various applications of the skill with sections on diligence, profit, pleasure, and ornament, featuring stunning visual examples.

For more information, please visit winterthur.org

Winterthur Needlework Conference: *The Diligent Needle: Instrument of Profit, Pleasure, and Ornament*

October 24–25, 2014

For centuries, instruction in needlework was an important part of women's education. Afterwards they might use their skill to generate income, to give pleasure to friends and family through their artistry, or to embellish textiles and clothing in their home.

Please join us for this unique offering of lectures, workshops, and tours. View the conference brochure for more information on lecture times, workshops, and registration.

Call 800.448.3883 for more information or to register. Registration opens June 19, 2014.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 30, 2014



Needlework picture, 1750–1800. Gift of Henry Francis du Pont 1961.1697. Image courtesy of Winterthur.

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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 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. \$20 adults; \$18 for students and seniors; \$5 for ages 2–11.

Museum hours

10:00 am- 5:00 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 on 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

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