



## Notes from the Nichols House Museum

Spring Edition

April 2017

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### Annual Appeal

Please consider making a gift to our Annual Appeal.

Gifts can be made via [this link](#), or by mailing a check to The Nichols House Museum, 55 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, MA 02108.

### Become a member today!

We invite you to become a part of the Nichols House Museum. Members enjoy special discounts and other privileges and provide a crucial source of operating support to the museum.

See membership levels and ways to join [here](#).

### Planned giving at NHM.

The museum welcomes planned gifts and bequests. Contact us at 617.227.6993 to learn more.

### From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We are happy to welcome spring, for its warmer weather, longer days, blossoming flowers, and, of course, all of the wonderful programs we have planned at the museum. Over the next several months, we look forward to seeing many of you at one of our lectures, panels, a book club, and our flagship event, the Spring Fete. Events are listed at the bottom of this newsletter and on our [events page](#).



As many of you know, last month we learned that we have earned Accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). AAM Accreditation signifies that we are operating at the highest level of professionalism and best practices, and delivering our mission to our public in an effective way. This accomplishment is the result of several years of combined efforts by past and present Board and Staff members, and I am as grateful as I am delighted. Please read more about accreditation in [this press release](#).

Accreditation places us in the company of only 3% of museums in the U.S. and recognizes our ongoing leadership in our field. In Boston, this group includes such esteemed institutions as the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Institute of Contemporary Art. We also join these colleagues in their support of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, both of which are at risk of being abolished. Please see [their letter here](#), and, if you are interested in joining their voices, please see [AAM's call to action here](#).

Sincerely,

Victoria McKay  
 Executive Director

Introducing new NHM Staff Member Michela Davola

We are delighted to welcome Michela Davola to our team. Michela began her tenure as the Communication and Administration Associate in March, and is already adding her talent for efficiency and organization to our communication, administrative and financial operations. Michela holds a Masters degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design in architectural history, where she referenced Rose Nichols' book,



*English Pleasure Gardens*, in one of her research papers. Prior to joining our team, Michela was the Assistant Director of Admissions at Montserrat College of Art, where she oversaw the operations of the busy admissions office and participated in University-wide events, such as the annual fundraiser. In addition to her professional and academic interests, Michela enjoys crocheting and reading historical fiction, and is an avid practitioner of yoga.

### Exhibition Open! "Makers' Marks: Art, Craft and the Fiber of Change"



Betse Frail.

The Nichols sisters came of age during the Arts and Crafts movement (1880 - 1910), which called for a return to handcrafts for the sake of beauty, quality and social progress. These values impacted the educations, careers and politics of the Nichols sisters.

Letters, memoirs and objects

in the museum's collection tell the story of their work with sewing, pottery and woodworking. Beyond being object makers, the Nichols sisters utilized their skills to educate and advocate for people from diverse backgrounds.



Chelsea Revelle.



Jasmine Baetz.

The museum showcases the Nichols sisters' accomplishments and tells the story of craft from the Progressive Era to today by presenting works by contemporary craft artists

interspersed throughout its historic rooms.

Exhibiting artists are: Betse Frail, Carlie Waganer, Chelsea Revelle, Jasmine Baetz.

By harnessing today's spirit of making, activism and community engagement, the museum expands its



Carlie Waganer.

interpretation of the Nichols family's history and the role of craft as a platform for activism in contemporary society. The exhibit will be accompanied by a catalog, thanks to the support of the Julie and Georgia Linsdell Fund. Learn more about the exhibition [here](#).

All images courtesy of Lydia See.

### NHM on the Go!



On March 29, 2017, a group of NHM Patrons and Executive Director Victoria McKay enjoyed a collection highlights tour of the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), Boston, led by Nonie Gadsden, the MFA's Katharine Lane Weems Senior Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture. Favorite stops included Paul Revere's "Sons of Liberty Bowl" (silver, 1768) and the remarkable "Parakeets and Gold Fish Bowl" window by Louis Comfort Tiffany (Glass, lead and bronze chain, about 1889). Over cocktails following the tour, Gadsden discussed additional findings gleaned during research for her upcoming book on Tiffany, such as that the birds rendered in the piece are the now extinct Carolina parakeets, the only parrot indigenous to North America.

NHM's Patrons Program represents an important source of annual income, contributing funds that support the museum's core preservation, curatorial, education and public programs. In appreciation, members of this special donor group are given exclusive access to NHM and programs beyond!

To become a Patron member, click [here](#).

### Remembering Nancy Purbeck



We are sad to report the recent passing of longtime museum supporter and friend Nancy Purbeck. Nancy has been a volunteer and ambassador for the Nichols House Museum for many years. Her enthusiasm for the museum, its collection and its mission was infectious. In addition to her passion for the Nichols House Museum, Nancy co-founded the nonprofit Victory Over Violence,

and was a longtime supporter at Trinity Church in Copley Square, where she was a Lay Eucharistic Minister. Nancy's family invites those who wish to remember her to a memorial service at Trinity Church on Saturday, May 13, at 11 am. Nancy's obituary may be found [here](#).

## Spring Fête



On June 1, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at the Boston Athenæum, the Nichols House Museum will once again bring together friends and neighbors at its elegant cocktail party and silent auction. This year we will feature several new items, including a family photograph session, a sketch of your home and a private sail around Boston Harbor. Please see more information on our [events page](#) and stay tuned for future updates.

## Spring Reading

Catch up on "Object of the Month" and "Reading with Rose" blogs, [here](#). Blogs are contributed by collection, research and education staff and interns, and offer a deep dive into objects on display, books in Rose's collection, as well as archival materials.



Image credit: Cover of Roses Romance.

Enjoy the Annual Alliance of Museum's (AAM) [Trendswatch 2017 report](#). This report, issued annually by the AAM, highlights future trends, and notes their impact on the museum field.



Image: Trendswatch 2017

Applications are currently being accepted for the Summer, 2017 Georgia and Julie Linsdell Fellowship. The Linsdell Fellow will complete a focused research paper of his/her choice related to the museum's educational mission. Topics should be relevant to the history of the house and the Nichols family, and should be set in the broader context of artistic, social and political movements that took place between 1804 and 1960. Deadline to apply is Tuesday, April 11. For more information, please see the full listing [here](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*For detailed information about upcoming events, please visit our [programs and events](#) page.*

### **Thursday, April 13**

*Karen Corsano and Daniel Williman present "John Singer Sargent in Boston".*

Light Refreshments will be served.

Book sale and signing to follow lecture.

Time: 5:30-7:30

Location: New England Historic Genealogical Society: 99-101 Newbury St, Boston

Tickets: \$10 members, \$15 nonmembers.

Please click [here](#) for tickets.

### **Tuesday, April 18**

*Opening Reception for the 2017 Exhibition*

*"Makers' Marks: Art, Craft and the Fiber of Change"*

Light Refreshments will be served.

Time: 5:30-7:30 pm

Location: Nichols House Museum:

55 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, MA 02108

Free and open to the public, but advanced registration is REQUIRED.

To register, email [info@nicholshousemuseum.org](mailto:info@nicholshousemuseum.org).

### **Tuesday, May 9**

*Annual Meeting Lecture: Emma Welty "Laborious Days, Margaret Homer Nichols and the Arts and Crafts Movement"*

Time: 6:00-7:00 pm

Location: Nichols House Museum:

55 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, MA 02108

Free and open to the public, but advanced registration is REQUIRED.

To register, email [info@nicholshousemuseum.org](mailto:info@nicholshousemuseum.org).

### **Thursday, May 18**

*NHM Lecture Series Presents: Chris Grimley and Mark Pasknik, "Heroism and Hubris: Concrete Architecture in Boston"*

Time: 6:00-7:30 pm

Location: Boston City Hall, Mezzanine, 1 City Hall Square, Boston, MA 02201

Tickets: "pay what you will" donation; but advanced registration is REQUIRED.

Please register [here](#).

### **Wednesday, May 24**

*NHM Book Club Series Presents: Milkshake, a novel by Joanna Weiss*

Light Refreshments will be served.

Time: 5:50-7:00 pm

Location: Nichols House Museum:

55 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, MA 02108

Tickets: \$10 members, \$15 nonmembers

Please click [here](#) for tickets.

**Thursday, June 1**

*Spring Fête*

Time: 6:00-8:30 pm

Location: Boston Athanaeum, 10 1/2 Beacon Street,  
Boston, MA 02108

Tickets start at \$150

Please click [here](#) for tickets.

**Thursday, June 22**

*Panel discussion: "Making Marks; Artists Discuss their Practices"*

Time: 6:00-7:30 pm

Location: North Bennet Street School, 150 North Street,  
Boston, MA 02109

Tickets: Free and open to the public, but advanced registration is REQUIRED. Please register [here](#).

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