Modernism at Evergreen: Erno Fabry (1906 – 1984)
May 18 – October 25

Recognizing Alice Warder Garrett’s commitment to innovative designers of the last century, among them the Russian Constructivist artist Léon Bakst, Evergreen Museum & Library appropriately is serving as backdrop for a new Johns Hopkins undergraduate course that celebrates aspects of Modernism while introducing students to the museum experience. The class, taught each spring semester by Evergreen’s director-curator James Abbott, culminates in a student-curated exhibition, the first of which is Modernism at Evergreen: Erno Fabry (1906–1984), opening at the museum on May 18.

Somewhat forgotten, Erno Fabry was a Czech-born architect who immigrated to the United States on the threshold of World War II, working with such design luminaries as Norman Bel Geddes (1893–1958) before establishing his own highly successful firm. The designer of numerous buildings, furniture, and even textiles, Fabry was counted among the most prolific European-born tastemakers to successfully transmit modern design to the American home of the 1940s through 1960s, even though his career has gone largely unrecorded. Fortunately his daughter, successful Washington, D.C. architect Joan Fabry, has come forward to share her father’s drawings and other related materials as a basis for this inaugural, innovative course, and generously underwrite an accompanying publication, which the student curators helped prepare. “I could not be more delighted with this effort to note and assess the career and work of my father,” she noted during a guest lecture to the class in February.

The retrospective will include over 45 never-before-exhibited architectural renderings, furniture designs, mural proposals, as well as actual pieces of furniture and textiles placed into production by Fabry. Among the most intriguing works is a watercolor and gouache rendering for a streamlined boat intended to honor the powerful Niagara.

A SPIRITED AFFAIR
Evening of Traditional Beverages: Scotch
June 5, 6–8pm

Homewood Museum has been serving up its Evening of Traditional Beverages since 1996, when Baltimore author and wine expert James Gabler led a talk and tasting based on his award-winning book, Passions: The Wine and Travels of Thomas Jefferson. That evening set the tone for all that followed: held outside on Homewood’s back lawn with the north portico as backdrop, it combined sophisticated historical content with a cocktail party. Now a Baltimore tradition, the event has featured experts on a variety of historically-rich spirits, wines, and beers, including rum, champagne, Maryland wines, rye, bourbon, cider, and gin.

Consumption of potent potables was part of everyday life in early America, and part of the Carroll family’s life at Homewood, their summer residence. “We might imagine the Carrolls gathering with friends for such an evening of al fresco drink and conversation,” said Homewood program coordinator Judith Proffitt, who organizes the event each year. Two architectural spaces in the house were devoted to wine storage. Below

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Evening of Traditional Beverages

the reception hall (an unheated space), was a wine cellar with a series of arched vaults that helped maintain cool temperatures and proper humidity. A Madeira garret was located above the reception hall in the south portico pediment, where the warm environment improved the quality of the fortified wine. It was wine expert Manny Berk, who spoke in 2000 at the fifth Evening of Traditional Beverages, who confirmed the identification of Homewood’s Madera garret as part of his research on Madeira collecting in early Baltimore. Since then, Madeira tours and tastings have been offered to museum visitors as a unique way of experiencing the historic house.

As Homewood’s main fund-raising event, the evening has been supported by many local businesses and community members, including Style magazine editor-in-chief Brian Lawrence. “This is my idea of a perfect evening,” he wrote in his June 16, 2007 blog post following the twelfth edition of the event. Lawrence serves on the planning committee and generally mans one of the bars, as he says, “diligently handing over the hootch.”

For the past several years, WYPR-FM program director and jazz guru Andy Bienstock has served as master of ceremonies, as he will again on June 5, when Homewood will spotlight one of the oldest known spirit drinks, Scotch whisky, in celebration of the 250th birthday of Scottish poet Robert Burns. Craig Howard, a Baltimore-based sales consultant with Reliable Churchill Distributors, will discuss the history, culture, and taste of Islay, Highland, Speyside, and Lowland single malt whiskies. Guests will sample a “wee dram” of Scotch malts from such famous distilleries as Balvenie and Glenfiddich, taken with a splash of Scottish spring water, and enjoy savory hors d’oeuvres from Neopol Smokery.

$25; $20 Members. Pre-paid reservations required: 410.516.5589

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Modernism at Evergreen

Hudson Power Authority at presumably the 1939 New York World’s Fair. “This is an amazing representation of the type of machine-age Modernism that came to represent hope over fear in the Depression era,” observes Abbott. Of equal fascination is a set of mass-produced nesting tables manufactured in the 1950s. The complexity of the marquetry incorporated into the tops of these three pieces belies their mainstream, factory-made origins. “Fabry was a true master of detail,” said Abbott. “No matter the client or patron or recipient of his talents, he dedicated himself to the very last detail, and that is why he is so deserving of study.”

Winston Tabb
Sheridan Dean of University Libraries and Museums
Vice Provost for the Arts

“This is an amazing representation of the type of machine-age Modernism that came to represent hope over fear in the Depression era”

– James Abbott

OPENING RECEPTION:
Monday, May 18 / 6–8pm / Free

Pictured: Presentation drawing for proposed Niagara Power Corporation display, presumably for the 1939 World’s Fair.
Six abstract sculptures created by Hunt Valley-based artist Lawrence Schneider comprise this focus exhibition in Evergreen Museum & Library’s Reading Room. A former aeronautical engineer and computer systems professional, Schneider developed his direct carving skills as a hobby until 2004 when, at the age of 70, he made art a full-time career. Each work takes him 250 hours or more to complete—a three- to four-month process involving power and hand-operated chisels, lathes, mallets, grinders, saws, joiners, and planners to shape raw wood or bronze.

Reading the Grain showcases Schneider’s imaginative designs, in which delicate unbroken ribbons of polished wood or bronze form basic structures to communicate thoughtful messages. The ideas for his pieces often come to him full-blown during transcendental meditation, which he does for relaxation. “My main objective is to get people to see these pieces and enjoy them and understand the message. When I touch somebody’s heart, it keeps me going,” said Schneider.

Organized by Evergreen director-curator James Abbott, the installation is supported in part by the Evergreen House Foundation. It opens with an artist reception from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 7, and remains on view as part of regular museum tours through Sunday, August 30.

ARTIST RECEPTION:
Sunday, June 7 / 1–4pm / Free

Meg Page Selected as “House Guest”

Evergreen announces the selection of Baltimore-based naturalist painter Meg Page as its eighth “House Guest,” the museum’s highly-acclaimed artist-in-residence program. Throughout June and July, Page will enjoy access to the extraordinary and diverse collections of Evergreen, and produce new work inspired by them.

The Museum will host a meet-the-artist reception for Page during its Summer Evening at Evergreen open house on June 25. An exhibition is scheduled for Spring 2010.

Lindsay V. Tauscher, a Johns Hopkins sophomore pursuing a History of Art major and Museums and Society minor, has been selected as Homewood’s first Nan Pinkard-Aurelia Bolton intern. Tauscher, a Moorestown, New Jersey native who already had trained to become a volunteer docent at the museum prior to submitting her application, will spend her 10-week paid summer internship assisting with collections research and management. The internship was established to celebrate the lifelong friendship of the late Anne Merrick Pinkard and Aurelia Garland Bolton, and their shared devotion to Homewood. It is made possible through the generosity of Bolton, Herschel L. Seder, and the France-Merrick Foundation.
A new advisory council has been inaugurated at Evergreen, taking on the challenges of promoting the museum to new audiences while also fund-raising for key conservation projects. Chaired by Mary Ann Beckley, who, with her husband John, is a long-standing supporter of Evergreen, the council is preparing a series of unique and exciting programs that will include an antique car show on the grounds.

“Our goal is to educate the public about the riches of Evergreen through helping to preserve its wonderful collections,” noted Beckley. Evergreen is not just a ‘drive-by’ institution, but a true destination and we want everyone to see it as such.”

Members of the Evergreen Museum & Library Advisory Council include: Robert Bentley Adams, Christopher Goelet, Lilli Kazazian, Lock McGeachy, Pamela Meier, Nancy Rome, and Jamie Snead, each of whom are equipped with a diverse background and interest in decorative arts, architecture, and preservation.

Watch Your Step!

To benefit the on-going conservation and preservation of Evergreen’s vast collections, the museum has commissioned 10 reproductions of the classically-inspired portable steps designed for Ambassador Garrett’s great library by noted Baltimore architect Laurence Hall Fowler. (The original working drawings for the steps are included in the Sheridan Libraries’ Fowler Collection.) The reproductions are made by Baltimore-based McLain Wiesand, and come in a variety of finishes ranging from the original walnut to highly-polished black and red lacquers.

Happy 200th Birthday Poe!

The JHU Museums are participants in Nevermore 2009—Baltimore’s yearlong celebration marking the bicentennial birthday of Edgar Allan Poe on January 19. This summer, they will join the Greater Baltimore History Alliance to present a scavenger hunt encouraging visitors to explore Poe’s Baltimore by visiting local history museums.

From July 3 through September 12, Homewood and the Mount Clare Museum House will present Poe in Motion, a double feature of classic Poe adaptations as interpreted for the big screen by Vincent Price. Programming details are still being finalized; please visit museums.jhu.edu regularly for up-to-date information.

Williams Give Tea Set to Evergreen

Through the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. McRae Williams of Owings Mills, Maryland, Evergreen Museum & Library has received a handsome and important c. 1845 six-piece silver tea and coffee service, made by Philadelphia artisans Robert & William Wilson (w. 1825–1846). Accompanied by a later large silver-plated tray and an original mahogany storage case, this service includes rare standing and seated Chinese figures as decorative finials—the perfect complement to the Léon Bakst-devised Asian decorative theme of Evergreen’s dining room.

In February, Homewood welcomed Abby Burch as its new museum services coordinator. Burch holds a B.A. in anthropology and history from The Johns Hopkins University, and recently earned her M.A. from the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture at the University of Delaware. Burch looks forward to orienting visitors to the museum and its educational resources, while ensuring them an enjoyable, fulfilling experience.

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TV Star Comes to Homewood

Last fall Homewood Museum purchased a wonderful example of Baltimore painted furniture, which in 2004 was appraised for the Antiques Roadshow by dealer J. Michael Flanigan (St. Paul Minnesota; air date: January 10, 2005). “I’ve got to tell you,” said Flanigan during his appraisal, “when I saw this table, they could’ve scooped me off the floor… we have, on this table alone, more early American landscapes than you’ll find in many museums.”

The green painted console table has the largest known collection of 19th-century landscapes on a single piece of furniture—11 different views, all unidentified with tromp l’oeil shadows. Though the top has been stripped and the legs have been cut by about six inches, it remains a great example of the locally-made and decorated furniture that was all the rage during Homewood’s period. Plans are underway to restore it to its proper height, clean the painted views, and repaint the top. The table is on view in Homewood’s reception hall until it departs for conservation.

Meet Earle Havens

Earle Havens joined the Sheridan Libraries last August as its curator of rare books, which includes the collections of the Eisenhower, Peabody and John Work Garrett libraries. Here he talks about what he finds most exciting in working with the Garrett book collection.

“Serendipity. If there is a single word that can truly describe one of the singular joys of working in the John Work Garrett Library at Evergreen, it’s that sheer pleasure of accidental discovery. On a weekly basis, I am amazed to stumble, time and again, across something of incredible quality and importance when I’m actually searching for something else—perhaps the one true sign of a library of the greatest distinction, breadth, and depth.

Let me give you an example. Just weeks ago I reached up for one of the Garrett Library’s four separate editions of Thomas Hariot’s A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia (1590)—a treasure trove in its own right—when my eye was drawn to a plain, but clearly contemporary, Renaissance binding on a nearby shelf. It turned out to concern the same subject, but in a much earlier history of the New World written by Peter Martyr in 1533, within decades of Columbus’ first voyage of discovery. Thumbing through the pages, I found the margins filled with hundreds of manuscript notes and drawings, all in the hand of Martyr’s English translator, Richard Eden. This was Eden’s personal copy text!

If that wasn’t enough, a quick scan of the shelf transformed my initial shock into bibliophilic awe when I put my hand on a fine printed copy of Eden’s 1555 translation of Martyr, complete with the provocative note: “The coppie of the Duke of Moscovie…his letters, sent to Kinge Edwarde the Syxte.” The Duke was, in fact, Eden’s principal patron, whose Muscovy Company went on to support the publication of Eden’s next book. Great collections have a way of putting us in direct connection and conversation with history, yes; but only the greatest libraries put you in the same room with the voice of an author nearly half a millennium in the past, and that of his own literary patron. Eureka! Here’s to many more discoveries to come.”
An Ever Green Evening.
Bedecked with festive trees created by some of Baltimore’s leading designers, Evergreen celebrated the holiday season with An Ever Green Evening, featuring the opening of an exhibition of photographic work by Johns Hopkins students.
1. Museums and Society associate director Elizabeth Rodini and Daniel Annunziata ’09; 2. Development coordinator Rosalie Parker with Steve Ziger and Jamie Sneed, who designed a tree for the Garrett Library; 3. David Wiesand created this 9 ft. tree based on a building designed in the early 1900s but never built.

Gatsby’s Great Garden Party.
Despite the rain, over 100 people attended Gatsby’s Great Garden Party, co-sponsored by Evergreen and the Creative Alliance at The Patterson. The fab flapper affair featured a film screening of the classic Fitzgerald novel and a costume contest.
1. & 2. Guests show off their Great Gatsby style; 3. Hopkins alums Justin (’07) and Jeremy Batoff (’09), pictured third and sixth from left, served as judges of the costume contest.

Annual Landmark Society Evening.
In October, Wendy Brody welcomed Landmark Society Members to Nichols House, her then-home on the Homewood campus.
1. Current and past Homewood Advisory Council presidents Bill Carroll and Ross Jones; 2. Lili and Haig Kazazian with Penny Pine and Herb Silverman; 3. Wendy and then-university president Bill Brody with Dean Winston Tabb.
Unlock the Power of Your Assets.

You’ve achieved a great deal. Your financial picture looks strong and enduring. Now you’re ready to:

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LANDMARK SOCIETY CURATOR TOUR
Next to Godliness & Spirit of Place

In February, Landmark Members were treated to a tour of Homewood’s student-curated focus show, Next to Godliness: Cleanliness in Early Maryland, and an opening reception for Spirit of Place: Baltimore’s Favorite Spaces, a photography installation based on the same-named book by Sarah Achenbach and Bill McAllen.

1. Homewood director-curator Catherine Rogers Arthur leads a tour of Next to Godliness;
2. University of Maryland law professor Larry S. Gibson poses next to his Spirit of Place portrait;
3. Gretchen Redden and Sam Hopkins present landmark society curator tour.

JHU Museums Membership Registration

Please detach this form and mail it with your donation to JHU Museums Membership Office, c/o Homewood Museum, 3400 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218

Information

Name(s):

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Donation Level

For more information about membership levels, visit www.museums.jhu.edu

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Homewood Museum
3400 N. Charles Street
410.516.5589

Evergreen Museum & Library
4545 N. Charles Street
410.516.3410

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RUNS ALL SUMMER:
Historic Homewood ArtWalk
Guided walking tour, by appointment:
410.516.5589 / FREE

MAY
/ 1 /
Peabody at Homewood: Anastasia Petanova, flute
5:45pm, followed by a Meet-the-Artist Reception / $15; $12 Members
R.S.V.P. 410.516.5589

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Opening Reception / Modernism at Evergreen: Erno Fabry (1906–1984)
5–6 pm Landmark Society preview and curator-tour by invitation
6–8pm public reception / FREE admission
R.S.V.P. 410.516.0341 or evergreenmuseum@jhu.edu

/ 27 /
Antebellum Opulence: Portland, Maine’s Victoria Mansion / Arlene Palmer Schwind / The House Beautiful lecture series
6:30pm / $20; $15 Members
R.S.V.P. 410.516.0341 or missiontx.com

JUNE
/ 5 /
Evening of Traditional Beverages:
Scotland’s Single Malts
6-8pm / $25; $20 Members / R.S.V.P. 410.516.5589 or homewoodmuseum@jhu.edu

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Opening Reception / Reading the Grain: The Sculpture of Lawrence Schneider
1–4pm / FREE admission
R.S.V.P. 410.516.0341 or evergreenmuseum@jhu.edu
Exhibition on view through August 30

/ 25 /
Summer Evening at Evergreen
5:30–7:30pm Artist Reception with Meg Page and Shakespeare display / 8pm open rehearsal of Hamlet by the Baltimore Shakespeare Festival (Meadow) / FREE admission

JULY
/ 3 – 31 /
The Macabre Aside: Poe on “The Philosophy of Furniture”
Special tour offered during museum hours / FREE with museum admission

AUGUST
/ 1 – 30 /
The Macabre Aside: Poe on “The Philosophy of Furniture”
Special tour offered during museum hours / FREE with museum admission

/ 29-30 /
Last weekend to see Reading the Grain

SEPTEMBER
/ 1 – 12 /
The Macabre Aside: Poe on “The Philosophy of Furniture”
Special tour offered during museum hours / FREE with museum admission

/ 11 /
Poe in Motion
5:30pm doors open / 7.30pm film screening
$8; $5 Members and Students
R.S.V.P. 410.516.0341 / Rain location, Carriage House

Programs and dates subject to change without notice.
Visit the JHU Museums online at www.museums.jhu.edu
for up-to-date information and complete program and event descriptions.