

March 27 2020

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GREENWICH
Decorative Arts
SOCIETY

Dear Members,

We at the Greenwich Decorative Arts hope that all our members are well. We look forward to the return of our lectures and teas. We miss you! Your health and well-being are in our thoughts.

It was a shock to me as I am sure it was to you when the Metropolitan Museum of Art was one of the first of the museums to shutter through July 2020 - and this in the year of its 150th anniversary.

The Bruce Museum has canceled its May 9th Gala and its May 16 -17 Outdoor Crafts Fair. The status of their exhibitions and events will be updated as they continually re-evaluate when they can reopen.

In these unprecedented times, the arts offer solace and a connection to the quintessential values of life. The Greenwich Decorative Arts Society would like to share some links with you to enrich your days until we are able to meet together again.



Let's start with some extraordinary museums. Fortunately many museums have teamed with Google Arts and Culture to create virtual tours of their collections

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I spent some time looking at virtual museum tours presented by [The Decorative Arts Trust](#). The Trust promotes and educates about the arts on a national and international level. It partners with museums and preservation organizations to preserve the arts and historic places. I encourage you to explore this link and hope you can leave some of the stresses of the day as you enter these spaces.

[Visit Museums from Home: 19 Virtual Tours of Famous Collections](#)

If you are new to Google's 360° Street View panoramic tours, simply open the link and use your cursor or the arrow to move through rooms. Look for an "x" and click on it to move to that spot. There is even a [Google Arts & Culture app](#) if you are interested in downloading that.

But you can go straight to the museum tours through the above link. I spent a lovely time in the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and the Uffizi Gallery over a cup of tea!



If you are a music lover, perhaps you are aware that the Metropolitan Opera launched ["Nightly Met Opera Streams"](#) and began streaming a different encore performance from their *Live in HD* series each night, for free. As they write, it's a reminder that the arts are part of the soul of a civilized society, and without cultural institutions like the Met, our lives would be diminished.

Maybe you prefer the symphony? The Berlin Philharmonic is providing one free month of unlimited access to its vast digital archives to any and all. Users can search by conductor (think Herbert von Karajan, Sir Simon Rattle, and Daniel Barenboim), by "epoch" (Baroque, Romanticism, Modernism, etc.), by composer, by soloist, and more. Access is granted through a single-use voucher that must be redeemed by March 31. [Berliner Philharmoniker Digital Concert Hall \(register by March 31\)](#)
(Thank you Robert Erickson of The Critic's Notebook, The New Criterion)



One of our members, Barbara Bellefiore, shared a link with us of tours of great historic houses. We welcome suggestions from members. Thank you, Barbara!

<https://www.housebeautiful.com/design-inspiration/g31677125/historic-homes-you-can-virtually-tour/>



The New York Botanical Gardens invites you to stay connected to them through [NYBG at Home](#), a new content hub on their website that showcases their rich collections, creative educational programs, and the sights and sounds of spring. A video of the orchid show will be available on their website. This is the first of a series of virtual tours.





[Painters Painting, a 1973 film by Emile de Antonio \(YouTube\)](#): "With all the physical solitude of these last few weeks, it's hard to avoid getting a little introspective. Perhaps an appropriate time, then, to turn our minds to a movement in art history for which loneliness and introspection was paramount: the mid-century New York School.

In *Painters Painting*, a 1973 documentary by Emile de Antonio ([available for streaming on YouTube](#)), we have the unique chance to listen to many of the major artists of the period explain themselves and their work." We hear from interviewed artists, dealers, collectors, historians and critics. "Some of the commentary is sharp and insightful, much of it is ridiculous and pretentious, but all of it paints a full picture—thick with cigarette smoke and New York accents—of an extraordinary moment in art."

Thank you to Andrew Shea, Critic's Notebook, The New Criterion



And, have you heard of the San Francisco-based non-profit [The Internet Archive](#) ? It's an extraordinary library of free books, movies, music, websites and more.

The Internet Archive now has some 330 billion web pages saved on its servers. The site

has become something of the Library of Congress for the digital age, with 20 million books, 4.5 million audio recordings, 4 million videos, 3 million images, and hundreds of thousands of software programs, all preserved by the institution and available online. Its "[Wayback Machine](#)" is a history of the web that gives you archival snapshots of sites. You definitely should check all this out. We plan to keep you very busy.



We hope you enjoy these links and suggestions we are sharing.

Please do check our website where we will post announcements and links as well. Our Board, Program Committee and Administrator Sally are in touch and looking towards the future.

Be assured we are monitoring the changing situation and will keep you updated on plans and changes. Meanwhile stay safe, stay healthy. Illuminate your day through art!

With gratitude for your support and enthusiasm,
Karen Handal, President
Greenwich Decorative Arts Society

March 26, 2020

Borders from The Book of Hours, Illuminated Manuscripts



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