

The Magazine

MARCH/APRIL 2025

ANTIQUES



Guest editor
ANNA SUI

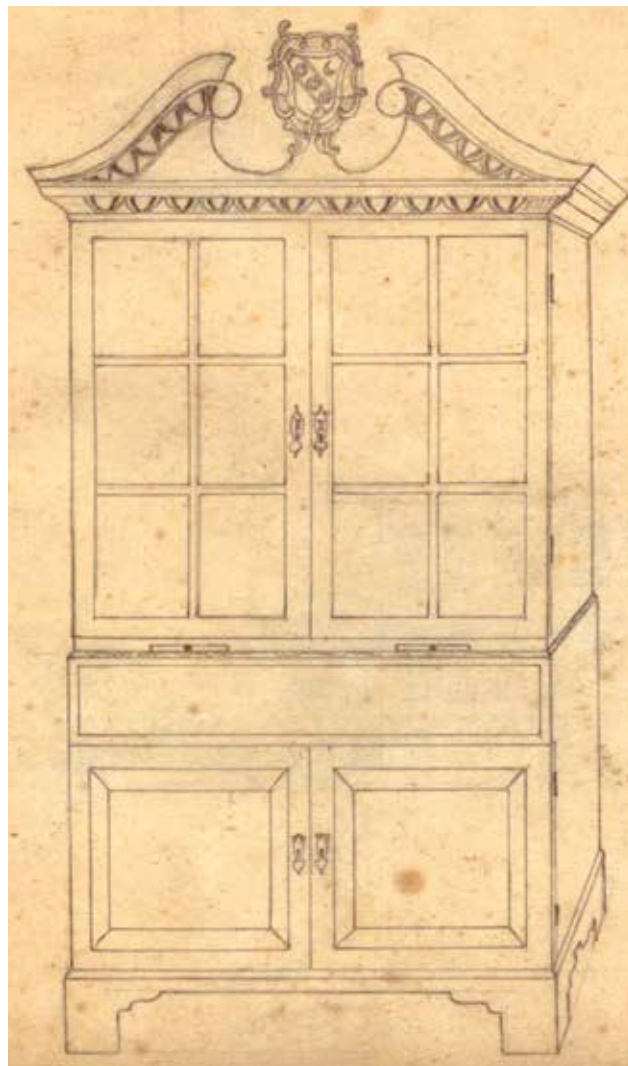


EXHIBITIONS

Guessing Games

The Charleston Show is running it back with Drayton Hall this year, engaging the eighteenth-century plantation house museum once again to devise a special exhibition for the fair. Last year it was antique bird prints published by George Edwards, the father of British ornithology; this year curator and director of preservation and archives Patricia “Trish” Lowe Smith and her team are giving showgoers a peek beneath the historic house’s hood, with a compact grouping of furniture and decorative and archaeological artifacts, as well as polarized light micrography and x-rays, serving to demonstrate “how we know what we know” about Drayton Hall, as she says. Or, in some cases, what they—and now we—can only ponder.

In the little lobby exhibition space at Festival Hall, pride of place goes to a mysterious pier mirror; or, rather, its doppelgänger, made by New York frame restorers Eli Wilner and Company to the specifications of the pier that the original—before it disappeared—would have occupied in Drayton Hall’s first-floor drawing room. But even more intriguing is the story that links a couple of outwardly unassuming scraps of wood: a length of molding carved with an egg-and-dart motif and half covered in red paint, and a small shield with flecks of the same. Based on paint analysis, Smith speculates that the piece of molding was used as a stir stick, perhaps for exterior paint for the roof of one of the plantation buildings; contrastingly, the shield’s oil-based paint is similar to that used on interior walls in the mansion itself. These artifacts are drawn into even closer correspondence by a circa 1845 drawing by College of Charleston professor Lewis Reeve Gibbes of a china cabinet in the house, whose cornice and finial bear a familial resemblance to the red-painted fragments. Where is the cabinet? As with the pier mirror, no one knows. “We had a lead a couple years ago, but it went dry,” Smith says. But with thousands of antiques enthusiasts expected to pass through the exhibition, the odds that someone may pick up the scent again are about to improve.



Through the Looking Glass: Decorative Arts Deconstructed

• Festival Hall, Charleston, South Carolina • March 20–25
• draytonhall.org, thecharlestonshow.com

Wooden architectural fragment half-covered in red paint, England or South Carolina. Drayton Hall Preservation Trust, Charleston, South Carolina, Drayton Hall Architectural Fragment Collection.

Sketch of a case piece by Lewis Reeve Gibbes (1810–1894), South Carolina, c. 1845. Drayton Hall Preservation Trust, Drayton Hall Papers Collection.



THE CHARLESTON SHOW

ANTIQUES | ART | DESIGN

PREVIEW PARTY

*A special evening benefiting
Drayton Hall Preservation Trust*

MARCH 20
2025

FESTIVAL HALL

56 Beaufain Street
Charleston, SC

honorary chair
TIMOTHY CORRIGAN



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featuring a special exhibit
curated by Drayton Hall

*Through the
Looking Glass:
Decorative Arts
Deconstructed*

THE CHARLESTON SHOW IS PRODUCED BY THE ANTIQUES COUNCIL

Show Hours

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MARCH 21 & MARCH 22 | 10AM – 6PM
SUNDAY, MARCH 23 | 11AM – 5PM

THE CHARLESTON SHOW

ANTIQUES | ART | DESIGN



Festival Hall, 56 Beaufain Street, Charleston, South Carolina

MARCH 21ST - 23RD

Friday and Saturday 10 - 6,
Sunday 11 - 5

PREVIEW PARTY THURSDAY, MARCH 20th *Benefiting* DRAYTON HALL PRESERVATION TRUST



**Saturday March 22nd at 10:30 am
An Intimate Chat**

with
Timothy Corrigan

**At Home in France: Inspirations and
Style in Town and Country.**

Internationally recognized interior
designer and honorary show chair
Timothy Corrigan shares the inspiration
behind his latest book.

Book sale and signing to follow.

Tickets (seating is limited) available
at thecharlestonshow.com

EXHIBITORS

A Bird in Hand
Antique French Fine Arts
Arader Galleries
B.Viz Design
Birdsall-Haase
Blandon Cherry Antiques
David Brooker Fine Art
Callaghans of Shrewsbury
D.M. DeLaurentis
Fine Antique Prints
Dinan & Chighine
Finnegan Gallery
Greenwald Antiques
Loana Marina Purrazzo

Nemati Collection
Peace & Plenty Antiques
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American Antiques
The Parker Gallery
The Spare Room
William Cook Antiques



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