



Dania Beach, FL · October 2019

### **Flights of Fancy**

#### Birdwatching in Porcelain

Grab your camera and head to the Wiener Museum of Decorative Arts in Dania Beach for some serious birdwatching in porcelain. Bird lovers are in for a treat at the new *Flights of Fancy* exhibition, which features exquisite, life-like sculptures by the Boehm and Royal Worcester Porcelain factories.

Tropical Toucans and Macaws perch among orchids in bloom while a Flamingo nestles with her young. The Flamingo has become a Florida icon. The elegant pink birds are everywhere in advertising, in place names, and even on the logo for the state lottery but few residents see them in the wild. Fortunately, the Boehm porcelain study was created in association with the Audubon Society and is authentic in every detail.

Beautiful studies of American birds in their natural habitats were portrayed in fine china by Dorothy Doughty at the Royal Worcester factory in England. Her subjects ranged from Audubon Warblers in Palo Verde to Chif Chafs in Hogweed, and equal attention was paid to botanical and ornithological accuracy. Typically, she modeled her birds in pairs showing the different plumage of the males and females. From the 1930s onwards, her stunning work dominated the American collectibles market until Edward Marshall Boehm became this country's leading exponent of avian porcelain art during the 1950s.

Boehm built an aviary and bred rare exotic species at his New Jersey studio, where he modeled a succession of bird sculptures in his unique porcelain body. His wife, Helen continued to promote Edward's work long after his early death in 1970. Boehm porcelain birds were presented to international leaders and foreign dignitaries, including Queen Elizabeth II and Mao Tse-Tung. Boehm became an invaluable American icon for princes and presidents from Eisenhower onwards. Helen once said, "Edward made the birds, but I made them fly."

*Flights of Fancy · Bird Watching in Porcelain* opens at the Wiener Museum of Decorative Arts during the Celebration of Art and Nature weekend on November 9 & 10. For FREE admission to the preview weekend program of events, register at <http://wmoda.com/registration-for-the-birds-and-the-bees-event/> RSVP REQUIRED FOR FREE ADMISSION BY NOVEMBER 5

You are invited to preview this exhibition, curated by Louise Irvine, during *The Birds and the Bees* weekend November 9 & 10 at the Wiener Museum of Decorative Arts. The exhibition runs until April 30.

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