



WIENER MUSEUM OF DECORATIVE ARTS · CURRENT EXHIBITS OF CERAMIC ART

Dania Beach, FL · July 2021

CARNIVAL & CABARET

It's party time at the Wiener Museum of Decorative Arts as we celebrate the art of having fun at our exhibition *Carnival & Cabaret*. This entertaining exhibit explores the flamboyant festivals in Venice, Rio and New Orleans as seen by porcelain artists from Europe. Discover how Harlequin and Columbine and other characters from the Italian Commedia dell'Arte have influenced carnival fun, the art of clowning and masquerade balls through the ages. Masking was particularly popular during the roaring 1920s to disguise the flirtatious behavior of the flappers. The centerpiece is Cinderella arriving at the ball, a masterpiece of fantasy in porcelain by Lladró of Spain. Cabaret and variety shows in early 20th century Paris and Berlin also reveled in the theatrical excesses of carnival costumes in the performing arts.

A SAFARI FOR THE SOUL

A giant smiling hippopotamus greets you as you enter the contemporary ceramics gallery at the Wiener Museum of Decorative Arts and visitors can't stop smiling in return. The hippo was made by Ardmore Ceramic Arts, a thriving artist collective in the picturesque Midlands of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. The studio was started thirty-five years ago by Fée Halsted, a talented ceramic artist who teaches local men and women how to make and decorate pottery. There are now around 80 sculptors and painters in the Ardmore studio making whimsical and uplifting works of art. As well as hippos, the Ardmore exhibition includes many other African animals which burst out of luxuriant foliage to form vibrant vases, tureens and bowls. Ardmore ceramic art is one of the most popular features at the WMODA Museum and it's worth a visit just to see this exhibit.

THE ART OF TEA

Elegant china enriches the tea-drinking experience as can be seen at the Art of Tea exhibition at the Wiener Museum of Decorative Arts. Discover how skilled potters have provided the most appropriate tea services to suit all tastes and budgets for the last three centuries. Whether you drink tea hot or cold, using loose leaves or teabags, in the morning, afternoon or evening, you'll be charmed by the sophisticated, ingenious and even quirky designs by Wedgwood, Royal Doulton and other famous makers.

FANTASTIQUE

Fantastique celebrates the enchanted world of ceramic art at WMODA. From myths and monsters to fairies and fables, you will be spellbound by the flights of fancy of European ceramic artists during the last two centuries. Fire-breathing dragons of the Dark Ages do battle with heroic knights or guard the treasures of the Eastern seas. Mermaids and other wonders of the deep beguile mariners while pixies, goblins and other denizens of Fairyland enchant children and adults alike. The mysteries of life and the age-old conflicts between good and evil, darkness and light, life and death are interpreted by sages, seers and truth-seekers in the universal myths of the world. On the dark side, there are macabre witches, wizards, ghosts and ghouls, while good angels and cherubs bring blessings from heaven and cupid's arrow initiates love and new life. The spectacular Niagara chandelier, featuring cascades of porcelain fairies, was donated as the centerpiece of this show by Lladró of Spain in December 2020.

The Wiener Museum of Decorative Arts has been awarded the coveted TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence for the last four years. The museum is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm. Special exhibitions and programs are advertised at www.wmoda.com and in the museum's monthly e-newsletter *Through the Looking Glass*. A 360° museum tour can be viewed www.wmoda.com/at-home-with-wmoda/

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Arts (WMODA)

