

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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Free Admission to the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg Sept. 22-29 Kicks off on National Museum Day

The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg join Smithsonian magazine's 14th annual Museum Day; extend the offer for an entire week

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Sept. 18, 2018) – Colonial Williamsburg invites guests to enjoy free admission to the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Art Museum and the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum Sept. 22-29 for a weeklong welcome kicking off on Smithsonian magazine's national Museum Day.

“Colonial Williamsburg offers guests living history and so much more, including our two world-renowned art museums,” said Ronald L. Hurst, Colonial Williamsburg's Carlisle H. Humelsine chief curator and vice president for collections, conservation and museums. “We're celebrating all they offer by inviting friends and newcomers to enjoy the fun and enrichment of the Art Museums, from fascinating exhibitions to daily educational and interpretive programs.”

The DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum exhibits the best in British and American fine and decorative arts from 1670-1840. Current exhibition highlights include:

- “Upholstery CSI,” showcasing the innovative, standard-setting work of Leroy Graves, Colonial Williamsburg's senior upholstery conservator
- “Artists on the Move,” a look at early-American professional portraiture and growing demand in the period
- “Printed Fashions: Textiles for Clothing and Home,” a never-before exhibited collection of printed textiles ranging in date from the late 17th century into the 19th century

The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum is home to the nation's premier collection of American folk art, with more than 7,000 folk art objects made during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Current exhibition highlights include:

- “We the People: American Folk Portraits,” showcasing early American works treasured for their historical significance and aesthetic appeal
- “Navajo Weavings: Tradition and Trade,” featuring rare, pictorial Navajo weavings created by anonymous artists in the late 19th and early 20th centuries
- “Folk Art Under Foot,” an exhibition of sewn and hooked rugs, crafts originating in the 19th century that gave Americans a way to create household objects with decorative beauty

Programs available with free admission include daily exhibition tours and Hennage Auditorium performances such as: “First Impressions,” in which Sally Fairfax and Martha Washington discover how their relationship will be defined by their affections for the same man, at 1:15 p.m. Sept. 22 and 29; “1607: Music for a Newfound Land,” a concert of music from the period by

Wayne Hill and Lynn and Barry Trott at 3:30 p.m. Sept. 22; and “Change is Coming,” in which enslaved minister Rev. Gowan Pamphlet queries George Mason on how Virginia’s Declaration of Rights will change his world, at 1:15 p.m. Sept. 25.

Free Art Museums admission tickets are available at Colonial Williamsburg ticketing locations. The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg are located at the intersection of Francis and South Henry streets and accessible via the Public Hospital of 1773, and are open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

In its 14th year, Smithsonian magazine’s national Museum Day 22 is “an annual celebration of boundless curiosity.”

Colonial Williamsburg broke ground in 2017 on the \$41.7-million, entirely donor-funded expansion of the Art Museums. The expansion will provide a new dedicated entrance on South Nassau Street, improved public access, and increased exhibition space and guest services among other enhancements. The Art Museums remain open during construction, which is scheduled to continue through 2019.

Additional information is available online at colonialwilliamsburg.com/artmuseums, by calling 855-296-6627 and by following Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](#) and [@colonialwmsburg](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia’s 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes nearly 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers, lodging, culinary options from historic taverns to casual or elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 45 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones and his son Rees Jones, a full-service spa and fitness center, pools, retail stores and gardens. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg’s educational programs and preservation initiatives.