

Joyous Obsessions: Collections and Masterworks

March 5, 6, & 7, 2027 • Charleston, South Carolina



Robert A. Leath, Moderator and Curator-in Residence since 2012 of the Charleston Symposium; Charleston, SC and Executive Director, Edenton Historical Commission and Elizabeth Vann Moore Foundation; Edenton, NC



Richard Hampton Jenrette Foundation Keynote Speaker:
Matthew A. Thurlow, Executive Director, The Decorative Arts Trust; Media, PA
Fly, Swim, Pounce: American Classical Furniture from the Schrimsher Collection



Marie-Laure Buku Pongo, Ph.D., Associate Curator of Decorative Arts, The Frick Collection; New York, NY
New Perspectives: Decorative Arts and the Renovated Frick Collection



Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen, Anthony W. and Lulu C. Wang Curator of American Decorative Arts, The Metropolitan Museum of Art; New York, NY
Designing America's Gilded Age: Drawings from the Studios of Louis C. Tiffany



Jeremy Frey, Contemporary artist, 7th generation basketmaker, and 2025 MacArthur Fellow, represented by Karma Gallery - New York; Eddington, ME
Permanence: Innovating Within Traditional Wabanaki Basketry

Photo Credit: John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation



Alexandra A. Kirtley, The Montgomery-Garvan Curator of American Decorative Arts and Manager, Center for American Art, The Philadelphia Museum of Art; Philadelphia, PA
Philadelphia Redux: Collecting American Art to Celebrate 250 Years of Creativity



Brian Rutenberg, Internationally exhibited landscape painter and Fulbright Scholar, represented by Forum Gallery; New York, NY

Clear Seeing Place: How Humidity Made Me a Painter

Photo Credit: Photo Credit: Jerry Siegel



Brian R. Turner, President and CEO, of the Preservation Society of Charleston
Welcoming Remarks and Preservation Society Overview

SATURDAY EVENING SOIRÉE



Richard D. Marks, III, Founder, Richard Marks Restorations, Inc. and 2026 South Carolina Governor's Award for Historic Preservation; Charleston, SC

History and Restoration of the Thurston - Perry House, circa 1857

SUNDAY STUDY TOUR

*The Schrimsher Collection of Classical American Furniture and
Decorative Arts in the Louis d'Anjou House, circa 1810*



Peter M. Kenny, retired Co-President of Classical Homes Preservation Trust, previously the Ruth Bigelow Wriston Curator of American Decorative Arts and Administrator of the American Wing, The Metropolitan Museum of Art - New York; Freeland, WA



Alexandra A. Kirtley, The Montgomery-Garvan Curator of American Decorative Arts and Manager, Center for American Art, The Philadelphia Museum of Art; Philadelphia, PA

Since 2012, the Charleston Symposium of the Preservation Society of Charleston has offered a unique intersection of decorative and fine arts, architecture, and historic preservation in a weekend-long series of lectures and study tours. Museum curators, scholars, art and architectural historians, and professional conservators share their expertise with an audience of approximately 100 patrons. Theme-specific tours of significant historic houses and recent rehabilitation projects are likewise explored and studied. The Charleston Symposium is organized annually by a volunteer board with all proceeds benefiting the Preservation Society of Charleston.