



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Images are available upon request

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GAY DAY AT HILLWOOD ESTATE, MUSEUM AND GARDENS SEPTEMBER 15, 2012

Paper fashions and floral designs inspire a day of beauty and creativity as Hillwood celebrates another year of uniting with the GLBT community

WASHINGTON — Paper fashion and floral splendor set the scene when Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens unites with the GLBT community for the annual fall favorite, [Gay Day](#), from 10 am to 6 p.m. on Saturday, September 15, 2012.

The tradition of Hillwood founder Marjorie Merriweather Post opening her home to visitors for grand entertaining is the backdrop for Gay Day. This year, the haute couture-like paper creations of Isabelle de Borchgrave in the exhibition [Prêt-a-Papier](#) add an exquisitely fashionable touch to the day of celebration, while the beauty of the [cutting garden](#) is tapped for the creation of glorious floral arranging demonstrations.



Family Garden Party

The day begins with a Family Garden Party with [Rainbow Families DC](#) from 10 am to noon. As de Borchgrave does, family members of all ages will gain inspiration from historic fashions to design and decorate their own original paper shoes. Games, picture books, and more offer hands-on fun, including hats, wigs, and other fancy dress-up costumes inspired by [Prêt-a-Papier](#) to transport guests to a world of splendor. Breakfast treats will be served on the Lunar Lawn, where Post hosted her legendary garden parties.

An Afternoon of Fashion, Flowers, and Entertainment



In the afternoon, all the elements of beauty and cordiality that characterized [Post's life](#) at Hillwood are on display for Gay Day. Post's passion for finely-crafted and exquisite objects extended to her landscape and orchid collection. Head of Greenhouse and Design Operations, Jason Gedeik, gives a presentation about Post's love of orchids using evocative archival images and fascinating stories of how she incorporated them into her luxurious lifestyle. Visitors can also watch as Gedeik recreates a magnificent floral arrangement based on a photograph of one of Post's historic centerpieces—with an abundance of flowers from the [Cutting Garden](#), which is in magnificent bloom in September. Behind-the-scenes views into rooms and spaces not usually accessible to the public, including the dumbwaiter, game closet, snooze room, and massage room, provide a glimpse into the facets that made Post's sophisticated lifestyle possible. Liana Paredes, curator of [Prêt-à-Papier](#), will lead guests through the magical and immersive experience of working with de Borchgrave and her studio in putting together this singular and stunning ensemble of French 18th century court gowns, Russian costumes, and exquisitely artistic early 20th-century dresses all made out of paper.

As always, gallery talks enlighten visitors about the collections, while performances from the Rock Creek Singers of Gay Men's Chorus of Washington and performances by DC Lambda Squares showcase the contributions of our community partners.

In between activities, visitors are invited to view the special exhibition [Prêt-à-Papier: The Exquisite Art of Isabelle de Borchgrave](#), enjoy a relaxing lunch at the Café, pick up a special item in Hillwood's popular Museum Shop, and wrap up the day with Punch on the Portico, a sociable toast to the GLBT community.

General Information

- WHEN:** Saturday, September 15, 2012
- The Family Garden Party is from 10 am to noon.
General activities are from noon to 6 pm.
- PRICE:** \$15, \$12 for seniors, \$10 Hillwood members and college students, no program fee for children under 18.
- RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION:** www.HillwoodMuseum.org or call (202) 686-5807 for reservations and more information.
Follow us [www.Facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum)

WHERE:

Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Metro: Red Line VanNess/UDC (20 minute walk)

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One of the premier art collector's museums in the United States, Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens is dedicated to enlightening and engaging visitors with an experience inspired by founder Marjorie Merriweather Post's passion for excellence, gracious hospitality, and intent to preserve and share the beauty and history of her collections, garden, and estate. Home to the foremost collection of Russian imperial art in the United States and impeccable French furnishings and objects, Hillwood is set upon 25 acres of gardens and surrounding woodlands in northwest Washington, D.C. Twelve acres of enchanting formal gardens include a Japanese-style garden, a Rose Garden, and a French parterre. In the spirit of Post's welcoming manner, Hillwood recognized a need to appeal to a wider audience. In 2001, the museum invited leaders of Washington's GLBT community to form the GLBT Advisory Committee. The committee has helped the museum create and maintain an atmosphere welcoming the full diversity of the GLBT community, including families and youths.