



Daniel Chester French's Summer Home, Studio and Gardens: *A Site for Creativity* | The Pedestal Spring 2022

Greetings from Chesterwood's Executive Director



Photo: Cassandra Sobn

After I completed graduate school in art history and received a certificate in museum work from the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University and The Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1983, I began my first full-time job as a Research Assistant in the Metropolitan's American Paintings and Sculpture Department, working on a two-volume catalogue of their permanent collection of American sculpture. This ambitious research project brought me to Chesterwood for the first time in the mid-1980s, to discover the art and life of Daniel Chester French in the country. I fell in love with the Berkshires and understood the power of place for creativity and inspiration when I saw Monument Mountain from the Studio Piazza. Little did I know that twenty years later I would be invited back as the guest juror of Chesterwood's 2005 contemporary sculpture exhibition and elected as an Advisory Council

member. In 2008, I stepped down from the Council and joined the staff as Chesterwood's Executive Director and Administrator of the Historic Artists' Homes and Studios Program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Out of my thirty-nine years in the museum field, the fourteen at Chesterwood have been some of the most fulfilling of my professional career. I will be retiring at the end of June to enjoy my young grandsons, find time to write, and travel to artists' homes and studios here and abroad. During this leadership transition, I will continue to work on special projects in a limited capacity over the summer. Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing many of you in the months ahead, to personally thank you for all your support over the years!

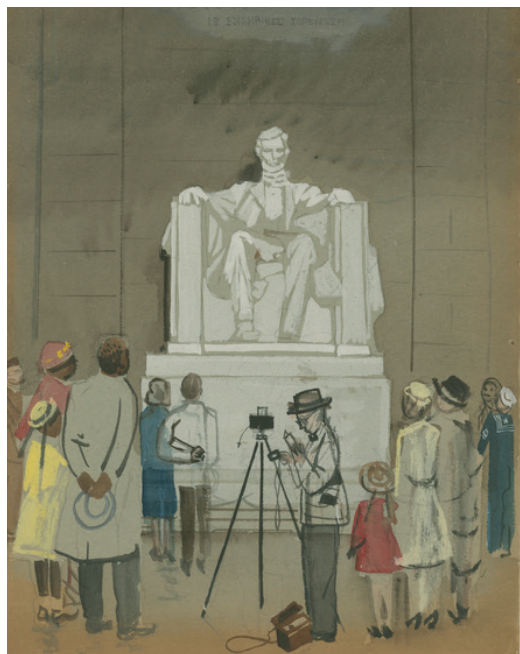
Warmest regards.



Donna Hassler | dhassler@chesterwood.org

The Lincoln Memorial Centennial Celebrations

We're celebrating the centennial of the Lincoln Memorial all season – join us!



Color study of the Lincoln Memorial by Stephen Dohanos, from *The Lincoln Memorial Illustrated* at the Norman Rockwell Museum, May 7 – September 5, 2022

Friday, May 6th

The Lincoln Memorial Centennial Exhibition: *The Lincoln Memorial Illustrated*
Chesterwood Members Free Preview and Reception 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

A collaboration with the Norman Rockwell Museum, this exhibition highlights the work of illustrators and artists who have incorporated the Lincoln Memorial into their art as a symbolic element. Exhibition on view at the Norman Rockwell Museum, 9 Route 183, Stockbridge, MA through September 5, 2022

Saturday, May 7th

The Lincoln Memorial Illustrated Talk: Lincoln scholar and Daniel Chester French biographer, Harold Holzer, presents **The Living Memorial: Daniel Chester French's Lincoln at 100**, Norman Rockwell Museum, 9 Route 183, Stockbridge, MA, 2:00pm and on Zoom. Chesterwood Members Free. Reservations at www.nrm.org

Thursday, May 26th

World-premiere of documentary film **Daniel Chester French: American Sculptor** Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Great Barrington, 7:00 p.m., followed by a Panel Discussion and Benefit Dessert Reception. Reserve tickets at www.mahaiwe.org

Monday, May 30th

Lincoln Centennial Celebration at Chesterwood: Lincoln tours, readings from the 1922 Dedication Ceremony; Berkshire Jazz Collective; reading from the children's book *Monument Maker: Daniel Chester French and the Making of the Lincoln Memorial* with author Linda Booth Sweeney and illustrator Shawn Fields; SoCo Creamery ice cream; picnics encouraged. Chesterwood Members free. Reduced adult admission (\$10) and free to children 18 and under.

Give a gift of membership this season!

Looking for that special gift to mark an anniversary, birthday, graduation, or wedding celebration? Give a gift of a Chesterwood membership, starting at \$50, which includes free admission, free tours,

free members events, 10% discount at the Shop, and more. This season all new members receive a free tote bag.

Speak to a Visitor Services Associate, Thursday – Monday, at 413-298-2023 or go to www.chesterwood.org/join.



100th ANNIVERSARY OF
THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Programs and Events 2022

The popular Arts Alive! at Chesterwood series returns:

The Young Choreographers Initiative from the Berkshire Pulse Performing Arts Center kicks off our series of outdoor programs on June 30th at 5:00 p.m. Tickets and the full Arts Alive! schedule of readings, dance, and music are at Chesterwood.org/calendar.



The Young Choreographers Initiative performing in the garden in June 2021

National Sculpture Society Annual Conference will take place at Chesterwood on June 3 – 4

Public welcome to observe the Sculpture Portrait Competition with 10 emerging artists modeling from the same live model, in the Studio, Friday, June 3

To participate in workshops, talks and awards ceremony register at www.nationalsculpture.org

*Rubin Gabeau
at the National
Sculpture Society
Annual Conference
in New York 2019,
photo Andy Lay*



IS183 Art School announces outdoor classes at Chesterwood in April and May:

Painting Studio with Marilyn Cromwell

Drawing the Figure from Sculpture in Charcoal with Michael Rousseau

Photographic Chesterwood: In the Shadow of Daniel Chester French with Thad Kubis

Dates and Registration at www.is183.org

Historic Artists' Homes & Studios, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

A traveling photography exhibition organized by Historic Artists' Homes and Studios will be on view at the **Frelinghuysen Morris House & Studio** in Lenox, Massachusetts from **Thursday, June 23 to Sunday, October 9**. This exhibition features more than sixty photographs of the artists whose homes, studios, and landscapes, now open as public sites, comprise the membership of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's national consortium, the Historic Artists' Homes and Studios Program (artistsshomes.org). This group of fifty-five affiliated sites includes Chesterwood, as well as the Frelinghuysen Morris House & Studio. This spring, the **Norman Rockwell Studio** at the Norman Rockwell Museum (Stockbridge, MA) was also accepted into the network

- together, these three Berkshire sites represent the enduring allure of the region for artists.

These images of artists at home, working in their studios, in the landscape, or on their travels tell visual stories that deepen our understanding of their lives, their creative processes, and their art. Through them the viewer gains access to the artists' private worlds – and allows entry into the act of art making, and in some instances the ability to see the objects, landscapes, and surrounding view sheds that inspired these artists. Some of these images are candid shots of artists caught in moments of creativity, while others represent carefully posed portraits that conjure questions about self-fashioning and promotion of the artist-genius persona.

Valerie Balint, Senior Program Manager, Historic Artists' Home & Studios | vbalint@savingplaces.org

For more information about the HAHS exhibit and visiting hours see frelinghuysen.org



Norman Rockwell



Suzy Frelinghuysen



George L. K. Morris