



CHARLES ALLIS/
VILLA TERRACE
ART MUSEUMS

Charles Allis and Villa Terrace Art Museums Announce Public Reopening on Wednesday, March 31, 2021

*-A new exhibit **Villa Incognito: Latent Narratives in the Permanent Collection**
also opens at Villa Terrace Art Museum-*

Milwaukee, WI – March XX, 2021 – After many months of closure and much thoughtful preparation, the Charles Allis and Villa Terrace Art Museums will be reopening to the public on **March 31**. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the beautiful indoor collections and outdoor gardens. “The health and safety of our guests and staff remain our highest priority,” says Executive Director **John Sterr**. “Precautions have been taken to mitigate risks of the coronavirus based on current government health and safety guidelines. We deeply appreciate the patience and cooperation of our museum guests and are eager to welcome them back.”

Admittance will be by online reservation only and visitors will be required to wear a facemask during their visit as well as keep a six foot social distance from others when possible. Timed reservations will allow the museums to monitor capacity, giving visitors the social distance and time they need to explore the museums and gardens. Reservations for the **Villa Terrace Art Museum** can be made at villaterrace.org and for the **Charles Allis Art Museum** at charlesallis.org.

With the reopening of the Villa Terrace comes a new exhibit, ***Villa Incognito: Latent Narratives in the Permanent Collection***, curated by **Shana McCraw**, Senior Curator Charles Allis and Villa Terrace Art Museums. The exhibition will be on view from **Wednesday, March 31 to Sunday, September 26, 2021**.

The Villa Terrace is not only a home, but also a fantasy. Based on an Italian Renaissance villa, the mansion’s architectural style, decorative ornament and objects d’art are a carefully orchestrated masquerade in which Milwaukee’s urban environment fades into the distance and artfully framed views transform Lake Michigan into the Mediterranean Sea. This exhibition examines the mansion and a group of objects from the Villa Terrace collection, showing how various forms of imitation, synthesis and symbolism are at work, and how these strategies work to create an idealized environment.

Among the objects in the Villa Terrace collection can be found reproductions, faux finishes, 20th century copies of 17th century objects, miniature housewares for children, reassemblies and numerous objects with overlapping cultural influences. The motivations behind creating and collecting these objects

include evoking history or luxury – to fooling the eye. Many are also examples of appropriated design influences from other cultures. Appreciating the collection from multiple vantage points can reveal information hidden in the complex narrative these objects embody, and larger questions about American culture – its complex economies, global influences and belief that any dream is possible.

Villa Incognito: Latent Narratives in the Permanent Collection runs from Wednesday, March 31 to Sunday, September 26, 2021.

###

General Museum Information

Admission to the Charles Allis and Villa Terrace Art Museums is \$10 for adults and \$7 for seniors and students. Admission is free for children (ages 12 and under) and CAVT Members. Reservation times are available Wednesday and Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Thursday from 1 p.m. – 8 p.m. To make a reservation visit charlesallis.org or villaterrace.org.

About Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum

Overlooking Lake Michigan, the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum is an Italian Renaissance-style villa designed by architect David Adler in 1923 as the residence of Lloyd Smith of the A.O. Smith Corporation, his wife Agnes and their family. The villa's courtyards, terraces and Renaissance garden flowing down to the lake make it unique in Milwaukee. The permanent collection features fine and decorative arts from the 15th through the 18th centuries. The museum is also home to the Cyril Colnik Collection and Archives. Colnik was Milwaukee's master decorative iron artisan from the late 19th to the mid-20th century. The museum is located at 2220 N. Terrace Avenue, Milwaukee.

About the Charles Allis Art Museum

Designed by prominent Milwaukee architect Alexander Eschweiler for Charles Allis — the first president of Allis-Chalmers — and his wife Sarah in 1911, this Tudor-style mansion and art collection was built with the purpose of bequeathing it to the public to delight, educate and inspire. The permanent collection features 19th-century French and American paintings, Chinese and Japanese porcelains, Renaissance bronzes, Japanese netsuke and original furnishings. Curated exhibitions are mounted several times each year along with a variety of other arts programming.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

John Sterr, 414/278-8295
jsterr@cavtmuseums.org