



A Rich and Varied Palette: Coloring New England's Past An Historic Deerfield Forum

Deerfield, Massachusetts
September 13-14, 2024

Historic Deerfield's 2024 Fall Forum, *A Rich and Varied Palette: Coloring New England's Past*, convenes a group of leading researchers and scholars to explore the vast subject of color and its history. Research and publication in the history of color has been growing in recent decades, but few studies have examined color's impact on specific cultural regions, such as New England. The program's lectures will focus on the diverse topics of global colorants and textiles, lithoprints in 1840s New England, painted furniture at the Bath Academy, japanned furniture, Shakers' color use and meanings, New England's textile bleaching industries, chrome yellow and pink as pigments, and the paints and finishes of the Rockingham (Vermont) meeting house.

Historic Deerfield is home to one of the finest collections of New England architecture, interiors, and decorative arts of the 18th and 19th centuries. Rich in locally made and imported objects, the collection ranges widely from painted and japanned furniture, dyed, painted, and printed textiles, embroidered needlework and samplers, and paintings, drawings, watercolors and colored prints and maps. The museum's Library also features the superb collection of Stephen L. Wolf (1917 - 2008), composed of pamphlets, trade catalogs, periodicals, and ephemera on applied color dating from the late 1500s to the present.

Despite the pervasive misconception of drabness, New England embraced color as a reflection of refinement and status, a visual display of commerce and the global economy, and a defining element of cultural difference, regional identity, and social and racial hierarchies. Through lectures, workshops, and tours, participants will experience the latest scholarship on color and gain a better understanding of the role of color in New England material life.

Keynote speaker Dr. Elena Phipps, Retired Senior Conservator of Textiles, Metropolitan Museum of Art, provides a contextual overview of the dyeing trade from the 16th-18th centuries. Saturday's speakers include Chloe Chapin, Assistant Director of Course Development, Harvard University; Rebecca Szantyr, Print Specialist at the New York Public Library; Laini Farrare, Mary Church Terrell Fellow in History at the University of Delaware; and Tara Cederholm of The Crosby Company of New Hampshire with Conservator Christine Thomson. The afternoon rounds out with Kirsten Travers Moffitt, Conservator & Materials Analyst, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; Christie Jackson, Senior Curator of The Trustees of Reservations; Brece Honeycutt, Multimedia Artist and Independent Researcher; and Dr. Susan L. Buck, Conservator and Paint Analyst with Walter Wallace, Rockingham Meeting House Curator and Historic Preservationist.

SCHEDULE

Friday, September 13

9:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Registration. Lobby, Flynt Center of Early New England Life.

Participants who arrive early are welcome to walk The Street and enjoy Historic Deerfield's house museums. At the Flynt Center, the museum displays decorative arts in the Collections Study Gallery and in several exhibitions: *Into the Woods: Crafting Early American Furniture*, *Vermont Furniture from the Alley Collection*, and *In Pursuit of the Picturesque: The Art of James Wells Champney*.

Before the Forum begins, optional pre-Forum activities are offered on Friday afternoon, September 13 (see registration page to sign up – space is limited).

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Session 1- Optional Workshops and Tours.

Dyeing Workshop A: “Dyeing and Dyestuffs” with Michelle Parrish, School/Family Program Coordinator. History Workshop.

Explore some of the locally available and imported dyestuffs that brightened the textiles of early New England, learn how plants and insects yield their beautiful colors, and dye a colorful swatch of your own.

Object Workshop A: “Collections in Color” with David Bosse, Retired Historic Deerfield Librarian and Curator of Maps; Amanda Lange, Curatorial Department Director and Curator of Historic Interiors; Daniel Sousa, Assistant Curator; and Lauren Whitley, Curator of Historic Textiles and Clothing. Bartels Seminar Room, Flynt Center.

Join Historic Deerfield's curators for a close look at select objects from the collection through the lens of color. Textiles, furniture, works on paper, and ceramics will be discussed.

Library Tour A: “Color Your World: An Introduction to the Stephen L. Wolf Collection” with Jeanne Solensky, Librarian. Memorial Libraries.

Join librarian Jeanne Solensky for a survey of design sources, technical and artistic manuals, trade catalogs, and ephemera from several centuries focused on color theory, paints, and varnishes. Also see an early 20th-century color wheel in action.

Exhibition Tour A: “James Wells Champney and the Pursuit of the Picturesque” with Lea Stephenson, Luce Foundation Curatorial Fellow for American Paintings and Works on Paper. Lobby, Flynt Center.

Come and hear the exhibition curator discuss how Deerfield's resident artist, James Wells Champney shaped late 19th-century perceptions of New England and revived the medium of pastels.

Friday (continued)

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Session 2 - Optional Workshops and Tours repeat.

Dyeing Workshop B: “Dyeing and Dyestuffs.”

Object Workshop B: “Collections in Color.”

Library Tour B: “Color Your World: An Introduction to the Stephen L. Wolf Collection.”

Exhibition Tour B: “James Wells Champney and the Pursuit of the Picturesque.”

4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Opening Reception. Bartels Seminar Room, Flynt Center of Early New England Life.

6:15 p.m. – 6:25 p.m.

Welcome. John Davis, President, Historic Deerfield. Deerfield Community Center.

6:25 p.m. – 7:25 p.m.

Keynote Lecture: “Global Colors: Dyes and the Dye Trade 16th-18th Centuries.” Elena Phipps, Retired Senior Conservator of Textiles, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Extended Lecturer, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA).

7:30 p.m.

Dinner on your own or optional prix fixe dinner at the Deerfield Inn.

Saturday, September 14

8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.

Registration, Coffee, and Refreshments. Deerfield Community Center.

9:20 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Welcome. Amanda Lange, Curatorial Department Director and Curator of Historic Interiors, Historic Deerfield.

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Lecture: “The Whiteness Industries of New England.” Chloe Chapin, Assistant Director of Course Development, Derek Bok Center for Teaching & Learning, Harvard University.

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Lecture: “Color Enters the Picture: Lithotints in 1840s New England.” Rebecca Szantyr, Print Specialist II, Wallach Division of Art, Prints, and Photographs, New York Public Library.

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break.

Saturday (continued)

10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Lecture: “Maine Furniture: Color, Femininity, and Rural New England in the New Republic.” Laini Farrare, Mary Church Terrell Fellow, History Ph.D., University of Delaware. *This lecture is generously sponsored by The Decorative Arts Trust.*

11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Lecture: “Japanned Furniture: Color in Context.” Tara Cederholm, Head of Curatorial Services and Curator, The Crosby Company of New Hampshire, and Christine Thomson, Furniture & Decorative Surfaces Conservator and Owner, Decorative Arts Conservation.

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Buffet Lunch, Deerfield Inn.

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Free time. Visit the Museum Store and the Flynt Center of Early England Life, tour historic house museums, watch historic trades demonstrations, or walk the Street.

2:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Lecture: “Chrome Yellow: American Gold.” Kirsten Travers Moffitt, Conservator & Materials Analyst, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Deerfield Community Center.

3:00 p.m.– 3:30 p.m.

Lecture: “Pretty in Pink: Stories of Color Through the Centuries.” Christie Jackson, Senior Curator, The Trustees of Reservations.

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Break.

3:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Lecture: “Prismatic Utopia: A Threefold Exploration of Shaker Color.” Brece Honeycutt, Multimedia Artist and Independent Researcher.

4:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Lecture: “Paint and Finishes of the Rockingham Meeting House,” Dr. Susan L. Buck, Conservator and Paint Analyst and Walter Wallace, Rockingham Meeting House Curator and Historic Preservationist.

4:45 p.m.

Final Questions and Closing remarks.

5:30 p.m.

Dinner on Your own or optional prix fixe dinner at the Deerfield Inn.

REGISTRATION

Register online at historic-deerfield.org/events or contact Ian Hamilton for assistance at (413) 775-7179 or events@historic-deerfield.org.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The Deerfield Inn is a classic, full-service original country inn built in 1884 that continues to welcome travelers from around the world. The Inn offers 24 individual and comfortable rooms in two buildings, and Champney's Restaurant & Tavern featuring creative American cuisine highlighting local produce. A limited number of rooms are available ranging from \$360–390/night plus taxes depending on type. Identify that you are attending the Fall Forum and reserve a room by calling (413) 774-5587 or visit us at deerfieldinn.com.

You may reserve at the Hampton Inn & Suites Greenfield, 184 Shelburne Road, Greenfield, Massachusetts for \$289 (2 Queens) or \$295 (1 King)/night. To reserve a room call (413) 773-0057, extension 0 and ask for a room in the Historic Deerfield block. To obtain the rate registration must be made by August 13, 2024.

For other accommodations, a list of additional local hotels and B&Bs is available upon request.

TRAVEL TO DEERFIELD

Deerfield, Massachusetts, is easily accessible by car or public transportation. See historic-deerfield.org/directions-map for directions. The nearest airport is Bradley Airport (BDL) just north of Hartford, Connecticut. The nearest train stations are in Greenfield, MA (4 miles north of Historic Deerfield), Northampton, MA, or Springfield, MA. **Amtrak** now makes three daily stops in Northampton and Greenfield on the Vermonter and the Valley Flyer. For information, contact Amtrak amtrak.com.

80 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA 01342 historic-deerfield.org

Information (including hours and directions) (413) 775-7214

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