

Works of Art from the Collection

The Lily Pond
Hattie Fitchpatrick

Location

Formal Parlor

Medium

Oil

Dimensions

71 x 47 inches

Date

c. 1900

About The Lily Pond

Hattie Fitchpatrick's *The Lily Pond* depicts the serene image of a young blond girl, dressed innocently in white, cooling her feet in the water of a woodland pond. Evoking images of Victorian ideals such as purity, beauty and virtue, this work of art presents an idealistic view of childhood. The girl's white dress provides a contrast with the dark woods around her and serves to emphasize her youthful innocence. The painting's presence in the formal parlor of the Farm House gives the space a youthful atmosphere, reminding visitors that children, as well as adults, lived in the house.

The history of this work of art proves to be just as noteworthy as the painting itself. It is believed that this painting may actually be a copy of another original painting, advertised in a magazine in the late 1880s. It was a common practice in the late 19th century for ladies to paint their own works of art by copying famous paintings, and this painting was probably accomplished in that manner.



International Livestock Exhibition Award
Carlo Romanelli

Location

Library

Medium

Bronze

Dimensions

41 x 13 x 12 inches

Date

c. 1900

About the International Livestock Exhibition Award

This sculpture depicts a woman wearing a long gown and bearing a torch in her right hand. She stands on a base, while a man wearing a toga kneels at her feet. It was designed around 1900 by an Italian-American artist named Carlo Romanelli, and it was cast at an Italian foundry. The sculpture bears a noticeable similarity to another sculpture: Emile Louis Picault's *Excelsior*. The word *excelsior* means *ever upwards*, making the sculpture an impressive tribute to Iowa State's strong agricultural roots. Part of this tradition includes Dean of Agriculture James "Tama Jim" Wilson's appointment to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture under Presidents McKinley, Roosevelt, and Taft. According to the inscription, the sculpture was given to Iowa State College as a trophy for the International Livestock Exhibition Award, which the college won in 1908, 1909, and 1912.



Hair Wreath

Location

First Floor Hallway

Medium

Human Hair

Dimensions

7.5 x 4.25 inches

Date

Unknown

About the *Hair Wreath*

Exhibited in a shadow box frame, this work of art depicts a brown flower wreath, consisting of a single center stem with side stems, flowers and blossoms attached. According to an inscription on the back of the frame, the wreath was made with hair from family members of the donor, Gertrude Cookingham Smith.

While seemingly macabre to many modern viewers, jewelry and art made of woven human hair was very popular in America during the late 19th century. In the age before digital cameras and videos, hair work began as a way of memorializing loved ones who had died. By the 1870s, women could find instruction in hair weaving as a pastime in the popular magazine *Godey's Lady's Book*, and the look eventually became so popular that ready-made commercial hair jewelry was widely available.



Floral Still-Life

Etta May Budd

Location

Dining Room

Medium

Watercolor

Dimensions

18 x 22 inches

Date

1901

About the *Floral Still-Life*

In this still-life watercolor, purple and white lilacs with green leaves overflow from a white bowl. In the lefthand corner, the inscription "E.M. Budd, 01" signifies the artist's name and the year the painting was created. The work of art was donated to the Farm House Museum by Dennis Wendell.

The painting was created in 1901 by Etta May Budd who lived in the Farm House with her family in 1877 while her father, Joseph Lancaster Budd, was a horticulture professor. Etta May Budd eventually taught Art at Simpson College, where she met and established a friendship with student George Washington Carver. It was on Budd's recommendation that Carver transferred to Iowa Agricultural College to study horticulture in 1891, becoming the school's first black student to graduate. Carver went on to become a world-renowned botanist and agricultural researcher as well as Iowa State's first African American professor.

Farm House Museum

Works of Art from the Collection

Additional Information on the Farm House and other University Museums Information sheets are available at the University Museums office - 290 Scheman building (2nd floor) 515-294-3342 or visit us online at www.museums.iastate.edu