

Works of Art from the Collection

The Lily Pond
Hattie Fitchpatrick

Location
Formal Parlor
Medium
Oil
Dimensions
71 x 47 inches
Date
c. 1900



International Livestock Exhibition Award
Carlo Romanelli

Location
Library
Medium
Bronze
Dimensions
41 x 13 x 12 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 traditional Victorian ideals like 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 Lily Pond was donated to University Museums by Mrs. Phil Allen, a relative of the first family to live in the Farm House. According to one theory, this painting is actually an imitation of an original painting that might have been advertised in a magazine in the late 1880s. It was common practice in the Victorian era for ladies to paint their own "masterpieces" based on famous works, and it is possible this painting was accomplished in that manner.

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 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 this similar sculpture an impressive tribute to Iowa State University's history and continuing legacy. According to the inscription, the sculpture was given to Iowa State College as a trophy for the International Livestock Exhibition Award. The college received the award 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 in 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 instructions for 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.

All information for this fact sheet comes from University Museums's online museum catalog.



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 bottom left corner, the inscription "E.M. Budd, 01" signifies the artist's name and the year the painting was created. This work of art was donated to the Farm House Museum by Dennis Wendell of Parks Library's Special Collections.

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 eventually became an art teacher 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 the Iowa Agricultural College to study horticulture in 1891, becoming the school's first African American 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 Museum and University Museums is available at the University Museums office - 290 Scheman building (2nd floor) 515-294-3342. Visit us online at www.museums.iastate.edu.