

**The Artist, the Poet and the Centaur** June 1 – September 1, 2019  
**Wharton & Whitman Garden Party** June 23  
**Off the Shelf with Wharton Esherick** June 9 and July 7

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## A Summer of Wharton and Whitman!

**Malvern, PA** –Walt Whitman abounds this spring thanks to *Whitman at 200: Art and Democracy*, and the Wharton Esherick Museum is excited to partner up with a series of summer events. Organized by the University of Pennsylvania Libraries, *Whitman at 200: Art and Democracy* marks the bicentennial of Whitman’s birth with a region-wide series of cultural events happening at various organizations throughout 2019.

### **The Artist, the Poet and the Centaur** *Exhibition on view June 1 - September 1*

In 1924 Harold Mason, founder of the Centaur Press in Philadelphia asked Wharton Esherick to illustrate the press' first publication: an edition of Walt Whitman's *Song of the Broad-Axe*. Esherick had long been a fan of Whitman’s poetry, and *Song of the Broad-Axe* in particular spoke to the artist, his world view and the path he’d chosen for his life.

*The Artist, the Poet and the Centaur*, in conjunction with the 200th anniversary of Whitman’s birth, looks closely at the Centaur's publication of this poem and features many of the original woodblocks used for the book, as well conceptual sketches, original prints and the rarely seen, hand-illuminated edition made by the artist as a gift for his wife.

*Exhibitions in our Visitor Center are free to the public. This does not include admission to the Museum for which advance reservations are required.*



*Frontspiece – Song of the Broad-Axe, woodcut, Wharton Esherick.*

### **Wharton & Whitman Garden Party**

June 23, 2019 11:00 am – 1:30 pm

Don't miss this summer celebration of Wharton Esherick and Walt Whitman! In honor of Whitman's 200th birthday, the Wharton Esherick Museum is hosting Walt Whitman himself for a reading of *Song of the Broad-Axe*, along with drinks, brunch fare, lawn games, and literary fun!

When Wharton Esherick was approached to illustrate Walt Whitman's *Song of the Broad-Axe*, he jumped at the chance. A long-time admirer of Whitman's poems, Esherick saw himself in the adventurous and creative spirit of *Broad-Axe*, in the "glad clear sound of one's own voice, the merry song, natural life of the woods, the strong day's work."

This event will bring Whitman's poem to life, while highlighting our summer exhibition *The Artist, the Poet and the Centaur*, which features Esherick's 1924 hand-illuminated *Song of the Broad-Axe*.

Admission: \$45 for Non-Members / \$40 for Members  
Reserve your tickets at [whartonesherickmuseum.org/event](http://whartonesherickmuseum.org/event)



**WHARTON &  
WHITMAN**  
Garden Party • 06.23.19

### **Off the Shelf with Wharton Esherick**

June 9, 2019 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

July 7, 2019 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Tours of the Wharton Esherick Museum typically tell the story of the "dean of American craftsmen" and showcase the stunning work of this master artist. Esherick's rich cultural life, however, also included several long-time friendships with acclaimed contemporary writers. For the first time ever, the Wharton Esherick Museum will reveal these personal relationships in full.



In this unique tour, the Museum shares rarely seen letters, photographs, and other personal artifacts relating to Esherick's literary friendships. The tour also explores inscriptions, marginalia, sketches, and other surprises inside the nearly 600 volumes of his personal library.

Learn about Wharton's close connections to such literary figures as Sherwood Anderson, Theodore Dreiser, Ford Madox Ford, and Jean Toomer, while also examining Esherick's abiding affinities for Henry David Thoreau and Walt Whitman. This is an intimate view of Esherick's life you will not want to miss.

Admission: \$20 for Non-Members / \$5 for Members  
Tickets are limited. Reserve your tickets at [whartonesherickmuseum.org/event](http://whartonesherickmuseum.org/event)

**About the Wharton Esherick Museum:**

The Wharton Esherick Museum, located just outside of Valley Forge Park in Malvern, PA is the handcrafted home and studio of Wharton Esherick (1887-1970), an internationally significant artist and leader of the Studio Furniture Movement. Esherick worked primarily in wood and extended his unique forms to furniture, furnishings, interiors, buildings, and more. His motto, "If it's not fun, it's not worth doing," is evident in the joyful expression of his work. A National Historic Landmark for Architecture, his hilltop studio/residence, with more than 300 of his works on exhibition, has been preserved much as it was when the artist lived and worked there.

The Wharton Esherick Museum is experienced through guided tours that must be reserved in advance. The Museum is open for tours Tuesday – Friday (for groups of 5 or more) from 10 am to 4 pm, Saturdays from 10 am – 4 pm and Sundays from 1 pm - 4 pm (no minimum requirement on weekends). Advanced tickets are required, and can be purchased at [whartonesherickmuseum.org](http://whartonesherickmuseum.org). For more information call 610-644-5822 or email [info@whartonesherickmuseum.org](mailto:info@whartonesherickmuseum.org).

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