The Russel & Mary Wright Design Gallery to open at Manitoga in May 2021!

Manitoga / The Russel Wright Design Center is thrilled to announce a permanent collection gallery of Russel and Mary Wright designs for the American home at Manitoga – Wright’s nationally landmarked home and 75-acre landscape in Garrison, NY.

Opening in May 2021, the Design Gallery will tell the story of how the Wrights shaped modern American lifestyle – from early experiments in spun aluminum in the 1930s and the colorful rounded forms of American Modern mix & match dinnerware to Japanese inspired patterns and textures decades later. The display of over 200 objects will be the only permanent, in-depth public exhibition of the Wrights product designs anywhere.

According to curator Donald Albrecht, “the Design Gallery in dialogue with Wright’s masterful Manitoga seeks to complement the visitor’s tour of the site with an installation both informative and experiential. The beauty of the Wrights’ explorations of form, color, and nature surrounds visitors on the gallery walls, while a central timeline display offers them an opportunity to understand the full trajectory of the Wrights’ remarkable careers as mid-20th century domestic innovators.” The state-of-the-art exhibition space connects to the main House museum and to an exterior terrace with stunning views of the Quarry Pool, dramatic stone ridge, and surrounding woodland landscape.

“This project realizes a long-time institutional goal to present the complete work of design visionary Russel Wright to the public at Manitoga,” says Executive Director Allison Cross. “Visitors will have the rare opportunity to experience a forty-year design continuum that integrates objects, the built environment and nature with everyday living.”

Lead support has been provided through a generous grant from the Henry Luce Foundation which seeks to enrich public discourse by promoting innovative scholarship, cultivating new leaders, and fostering international understanding. The Foundation’s American Art Program, a leader in arts funding since 1982, supports museums, arts organizations, and universities in their efforts to advance the understanding and experience of American and Native American visual arts through research, exhibitions, collection projects, and publications.

The project has been developed by Allison Cross, Manitoga Executive Director; Vivian Linares, Manitoga Director of Collections; Curator Donald Albrecht, author and co-curator of Russel Wright: Creating American Lifestyle, Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum; and Wendy Evans Joseph, FAIA, LEED AP, award-winning exhibition designer, architect, and founding principal of Studio Joseph, NYC with additional design direction from architect James Hartford, AIA, LEED AP, Partner, River Architects and Charles Burleigh Interior Design. Lighting Design by Anita Jorgensen. Exhibition fabrication by South Side Design & Building. Specialty Contractor Lars Lindberg / Tiny Houses

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