Woodlawn Estate was the first family home of Eleanor "Nelly" Custis, one of America’s foremost needle workers. Our Annual Needlework Show & Sale, which in 2020 will be in its 57th year, honors her legacy as an American crafter, maintaining the long tradition of the needle arts, promoting emerging needlework artists, and raising needed funds to preserve our site today.

Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House has been focusing on telling the full stories of our history, not just of the owners and architects who designed the houses. We expect our 2020 Show to highlight the talents of all needlework makers, embracing a diverse community of artists, that includes people of color, of multi-cultural heritage, and who identify as LGBTQ.

Needlework, like most craft, can be just a beautiful art piece, or it can be a pathway that its maker uses to express opinion. Often, it is both. It can showcase a specific technique, or be employed to tell an important story. It can be something made as hobby, profession, or in servitude. Activism within the craft community has become more commonplace in our modern era, but more traditional or historical pieces also serve to provide us a glimpse into the basic right of women to choose their own path as crafters. The year 2020 is the 100th Anniversary of the 1920 ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. This amendment granted all women the right to vote and to be an active participant in our democracy. For our 2020 Needlework Show, we hope that through the numerous and diverse pieces of extraordinary needlework submitted, our visitors will experience works that engage us all in telling the fullest, broadest, story possible of what “crafting needlework” can mean.

EXHIBITS, TALKS, & WORKSHOPS

Woodlawn is proud to host various textile exhibits in our museum spaces along with the 2020 Needlework Show. Look for more information about exhibits, talks, and workshops beginning on January 15 on our website!

Follow us on social media

Facebook: Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House
Instagram: woodlawnandpopeleighey
57th Annual
Needlework
Show & Sale • March 1-31, 2020

SUBMITTING YOUR WORK

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO ENTER A PIECE?
Adult entry fee: $20.00 for first item, $15.00 for any additional items
Sets of multiple pieces: $10.00 per individual piece
If you are entering a set of items, all components must be included and attached to each other.
Junior entry fee: $10.00 per entry

Make all checks payable to Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House.

Each entrant receives one free admission. No paper tickets will be issued for admission. Please check in at ticketing desk as an entrant.

Insurance: Insurance coverage is the responsibility of the owner/depositor.

SALES OF SUBMITTED WORK
We encourage sales of submitted pieces to the general public, through Woodlawn. Many show visitors are looking to buy examples of finished needlework! A commission is applied. Please see website for more details on selling your work, or contact us at woodlawnevents@savingplaces.org.

HOW DO I SUBMIT A PIECE?
Entries to the Show may be submitted by mail, through a designated needlework shop or gallery, or in person.
Please read these instructions carefully to ensure the safe delivery and return of your piece! All entries must remain at Woodlawn for the duration of the exhibition! Storage fees of $5 per day are applied for any item(s) remaining on the property beyond pick-up dates.

ENTRIES BY MAIL
Entries requiring hanging must be wired. No sawtooth or other hanging devices can be accepted due to the historic nature of our house walls. Entries must arrive by no earlier than December 14th, 2019 and no later than February 1st, 2020. NO EXCEPTIONS PLEASE!

In Stitches Needlework will process all mail-in entries. They must be sent in strong, reusable containers, which can be mailed and insured by your carrier of choice. Mail-in entries are to be accompanied by the submission form, entry fees, and a pre-paid return mailing label and any insurance fees.

Questions about mail-in entries?
Contact institches100@aol.com or (703) 360-4600.

Send all mail-ins to the address below:
In Stitches Needlework
8800 F Pear Tree Court
Alexandria, VA 22309

(OONLY entries sent to this address will be accepted. Please do NOT mail to the Woodlawn historic site)

HAND-DELIVERED ENTRIES
Walk-in Entries must be brought to Woodlawn on Saturday, February 8 or Sunday, February 9 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Needlework shops, groups and guilds with group entries must make arrangements for bringing in multiple entries between February 4 and 7 during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. All entrants are asked to complete their forms in advance to avoid long waiting times.

Contact woodlawnevents@savingplaces.org. Submitted pieces will be returned only to the depositor, unless Woodlawn is notified in writing to the contrary.

RETURN OF ENTRIES
All needlework pieces can be picked up by individuals or shops, guilds, and groups Friday April 3 through Sunday April 5, between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. If you are picking up more than a few pieces, please make sure to schedule a slot for one of those days AT LEAST ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE by contacting woodlawnevents@savingplaces.org. Woodlawn will not hold submitted entries past these dates without financial penalty unless approved in advance by no later than March 31st. Holding fee is $5 per day after April 5th.

All mail-in entries will be returned by no later than April 25th, 2020 if the required label was included. If label is not included, returns may take longer and a holding fee will be added after April 5th.

The Needlework Show & Sale is a fundraising event for our non-profit historic site.

Top: Kenna Cathart. Left: Marisa Barajas. Middle: Lucy Blaire, and others Nichole Sarhaindo
IS MY PIECE ELIGIBLE?
The Needlework Show & Sale is judged, but not juried. We look forward to including a variety of pieces at all levels. Each entry must be the work of a living person, stitched with hand-held, threaded needle and appropriately finished. Unfortunately, any items entered previously, as well as crocheted, knitted, macramé, woven and hooked items are NOT eligible.

JUDGING
Each entry will be classified and judged by Division first, Category second, then by Technique. Entrants should include their classification on their entry form. Woodlawn and its judges reserve the right to reclassify entries, if appropriate.

CLASSIFICATIONS
Divisions
Adult: For stitchers 18 years and over
Senior: For stitchers 70 years and over
Junior: Three divisions: up to 9 years; 10 to 13 years; and 14 to 17 years

Categories
Original Design A unique design and composition, which is the product of the stitcher’s originality and which may be produced using a computerized needlework design application. A typewritten statement of 50 words or less MUST accompany the piece for it to be included in judging.

Adaptation Design A design whose source is a medium different from that of the entry, e.g. painting, photograph, etc. An image of the source—scanned through a CAD program or as a photograph—MUST accompany the piece for it to be included in judging.

Commercial Design A work that uses a designer’s pattern for needlework, including a chart, painted canvas, printed graph, kit, class project and alterations.

TECHNIQUES
• Beadwork
• Canvaswork: Traditional or Multi-Stitch (4+)
• Counted Thread, including but not limited to these styles: Blackwork, Cross-Stitch, Drawn Thread, Hardanger and Sampler (traditional or multi-stitch (4+))
• Embroidery, including, but not limited to Crewel, Goldwork, Japanese, Silk Ribbon, Stumpwork, Surface, White Work
• Fine Hand Sewing
• Needle Lace
• Quilting, size is limited to 144 inches in perimeter
• Smocking
• Miniature, 32-count or higher, stitched over one thread
• Punch Needlework
HOURS
During this month-long event, Woodlawn is open from March 1-31, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., every day, except Tuesday, including weekends.

Note: Certain events will take place beyond these hours, please check our website for updated details. For adequate time to view the Show, visitors should arrive prior to 3:00 p.m.

Pope-Leighey House tours and special exhibits will be open during the same hours as our Woodlawn Show.

DAILY ADMISSION FEES
Tickets are available on site and online.
Adults $15.00  Students K - 12 $6.00  Children 5 and under are free.

Entrants Each person who enters receives one free admission.

SHOW SALES
The number of pieces available each year for sale changes. Pieces that are available for purchase will be clearly marked. All bought items must remain in the Show and picked up only after the Show ends on March 31.

During the Show, our gift shop is open and chock full of unique needlework-focused items!

JOIN US FOR LUNCH
It’s never too early to plan to bring YOUR group to enjoy the Needlework Show & Sale AND enjoy a local lunch at Nelly’s Café!

Thinking of an outing in March for your activity group? Our Needlework Show & Sale can be the perfect answer to the “usual,” end-of-winter, excursion blues! We offer an opportunity to wander the Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House property, visit Frank Lloyd Wright’s Pope-Leighey House and of course, visit the Needlework Show! Before or after you tour the Show, sit down and relax in our gorgeous, restored Underwood Room and enjoy a light lunch or dessert, served daily (except Tuesdays) from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Reservations for lunch are needed only for groups of more than 8 persons, who will always be seated during our 11:00 a.m. seating. We do love to accommodate clubs! If you have a larger group, please contact Beth Britt at designbyambiance@yahoo.com or 571-238-7261 at least two weeks in advance of your visit.

The freshly prepared, locally-sourced menu, which includes perennial favorites such as lemon tart, as well as soup created by our exclusive caterer Design Cuisine, is served daily by the members of Nelly’s Needlers, our Woodlawn volunteer auxiliary organization. If the March weather allows and you would like your group to enjoy the picnic tables, you have the option of stopping by in advance, and ordering your group meal to take-out.

All proceeds from Nelly’s Café support Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House. See our website for more information.

VISIT THE SHOW

Nelly’s Needlers
Our Needlework Show & Sale is supported each year by the Nelly’s Needlers, an all-volunteer group of passionate needleworkers who have supported our site for over 50 years. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact nellysneedlers@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS
We offer a variety of volunteer opportunities during the Show. Please check our website after December 15, 2019 for more details.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email: needlersnellys@gmail.com with your requested time.

This 2020 Nelly’s Needlers raffle is a Woodlawn Sampler Fire Screen. The design is based on Catherine Jordan’s Monticello Sampler, and was modified to highlight the beautiful Woodlawn mansion and Eleanor Custis Lewis’ life and interests. The sampler was stitched by members of Nelly’s Needlers and is mounted in a wooden fire screen. Sampler detail, without frame, left.
By submitting a piece, entrant agrees to loan their piece to Woodlawn, a historic site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States (Woodlawn) for the duration of the needlework show and sale. Woodlawn, Nelly’s Needlers and In Stitches Needlework will exercise the same care with respect to each piece submitted as it does in the safekeeping of comparable property of their own. Woodlawn needlework exhibit staff and Nelly’s Needlers may examine, measure, photograph or move each piece submitted for judging, and each have the right to place the piece in any part of, and in any manner within the exhibit, at their discretion. Woodlawn and Nelly’s Needlers will also have the right to use photographs and images of the piece for promotional and noncommercial purposes.

Each entrant is expected to value their piece honestly and by fair market value only. In the event of loss or damage, the amount payable to the entrant for damage incurred will be no greater than the value stated on the entry form. As agreed to by the parties, Woodlawn may also repair any damage rather than provide cash reimbursement. The entrant agrees to pick up the piece at the end of the needlework show.

The depositor warrants that he or she holds full and clear title to the object(s) identified on the face of the Submission Form or is the agent of the owner authorized to deposit the objects with the National Trust, referred to as “Woodlawn”.

We are unable to store Show entries beyond the pickup date unless they have been sold or other arrangements made for pick up. If you are unable to pick up your item, and Woodlawn’s efforts to contact you are unsuccessful, then Woodlawn shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to either use the items or place them in storage at the depositor’s sole risk and expense, to charge storage fees of $5 per day. Items not picked up within one month of show end, then in consideration of the expense of storage and safe guarding the object(s) during such a period, the object(s) shall be deemed an unrestricted gift to the site.

In submission of this entry, I hereby agree to abide by the stated rules of the exhibition, and terms and condition listed on the enclosures.

Signature:______________________________

Total Fees:____________________________