

HISTORIC ARTISTS' HOMES & STUDIOS

Program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation



Artists' Homes and Studios: Savoring Art in Philadelphia, Bucks County, & the Brandywine Valley, hosted by Dr. Wanda Corn and HAHS Director Valerie Balint.

Sunday September 13th – Saturday September 19th 2026

Two hundred and fifty years ago, a nation was born in Philadelphia. Historic Artists' Homes and Studios (HAHS) and *Art Horizons* invite you to experience its art, its makers, and its richness firsthand. Join HAHS Director Valerie Balint and scholar Dr. Wanda Corn for a week of guided visits to world-class museums, artist homes and studios, and private collections in Philadelphia, Bucks County, and the Brandywine Valley. The Historic Artists' Homes and Studios program (HAHS) is a coalition of 93 sites across 32 states, and this journey brings some of its most iconic destinations together in one extraordinary itinerary: N.C. Wyeth's home and studio, Andrew Wyeth's first studio, Wharton Esherick's uniquely crafted home and museum, and Henry Mercer's maverick Fonthill Castle. Private tours of new exhibitions at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and the Barnes Collection, plus the newly opened Calder Gardens and the home of master craftsman George Nakashima, round out the trip. In a year marking the founding of the country, we'll also stroll through Colonial Philadelphia and see where history was made. This is a rare chance to understand key ideas in American art through the experience of place itself.

Wanda M. Corn, Robert and Ruth Halperin Professor Emerita in Art History at Stanford University, retired in 2008 after years of teaching and training of graduate students in the history of American Art. She grew up in New England and today lives on Cape Cod. One of her first publications as a young scholar was *The Art of Andrew Wyeth (1973)*, a book to accompany the artist's exhibition at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. Today she serves on the board of the Wyeth Foundation of American Art. In October 2026, she is launching the publication of her new book, *The Couple with the Pitchfork: American Gothic from Easel to Icon*, Princeton University Press. Professor Corn lectures widely and serves as chair of the advisory board for Historic Artists Homes and Studios (HAHS). Ever since she mounted a (failed) campaign in the 1990's to save an arts and crafts woman artist's home and studio in Washington DC, she has advocated for the significance, preservation, and interpretation of places artists have shaped to serve as their living and workspaces. She is excited to introduce fellow travelers to some of the great artist spaces and museum collections in the mid-Atlantic region.

Valerie Balint is the Director of HAHS, and the author of the *Guide to Historic Artists' Homes and Studios* (Princeton Architectural Press, June 2020). Prior to HAHS, Ms. Balint served for seventeen years on the curatorial staff at Frederic Church's Olana (a HAHS site), and as Interim Director of Collections and Research. Her previous work also includes curatorial positions at Chesterwood and the Frelinghuysen Morris House & Studio (both HAHS sites). She has also served as the New York State Coordinator of "Save Outdoor Sculpture," a program of the Smithsonian American Art Museum to document all public sculpture in the United States.

Day One: Sunday, September 13th 2026

Independent arrival into Philadelphia International Airport.

Check in at the **Bellevue Hotel in Philadelphia**. The Bellevue Hotel is an historic building that captures the spirit and sophistication of downtown Philadelphia's gilded age. Blending timeless charm with modern energy, this hotel offers spacious rooms in a prime Center City location on Broad Street.

Meet in our hotel lobby to depart on foot.

7:00 p.m. Toast the City of Brotherly Love during our **Welcome Dinner** at **Wilder** serving New American cuisine

within the former Philadelphia Academy of Social Dance building.

Day Two: Monday, September 14th 2026

7:30 a.m. Morning Breakfast reception with lecture given by Wanda Corn at the nearby Duke & Duke Boardroom. (Across the street from hotel at 123 South Broad Street, 5th floor).

9:45 a.m. Gather in our hotel lobby to depart by bus.

10:00 a.m. Enjoy a **curator-led visit** to the **Philadelphia Museum of Art**, one of the largest art museums in the United States. The museum has collections of more than 227,000 objects that include world-class holdings of European and American paintings, prints, drawings and decorative arts. We will spend focused time exploring the special exhibition **A Nation of Artists**, which celebrates the nation's 250th anniversary and brings together more than 1,000 works, including more than 120 iconic paintings and decorative arts from the Middleton Family Collection. Together, these works will offer fresh perspectives on the evolving story of American art and experience. After our guided tour, we will enjoy **free time** for independent exploration.

12:30 p.m. Depart by bus.

12:45 p.m. Enjoy a **group lunch**.

2:15 p.m. **Walking tour of Colonial Philadelphia**. We will concentrate on the buildings in and around Independence National Historic Park, the center of 18th century Philadelphia and the center of government in the early years of the United States where so much of American colonial, revolutionary and Federal-period heritage is preserved. Each step of the way is full of history and scenic cityscapes, when the old city and the new come together. Begin with highlights of "America's most historic square mile" including visits to Independence Hall, The Liberty Bell and the President's House Site. Continue the tour, visiting Congress Hall (the first meeting place of the U.S. Congress with the original "Upper House" and "Lower House"), Old City Hall (the first home of the Continental Congress), Franklin Court (the home of Benjamin Franklin redesigned by Robert Venturi), The First Bank (1795-97, the oldest surviving bank building in America) and The Second Bank Building (designed by William Strickland in the 1820's, a beautiful Greek revival building now the National Portrait gallery with over 70 works by Charles Wilson Peale).

3:45 p.m. Conclude our tour at the **Museum of the American Revolution** to view the special exhibition, **The Declaration's Journey**, which marks the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding by exploring the history and global impact of the Declaration of Independence from 1776 to today.

5:00 p.m. Depart by bus.

5:15 p.m. **We will enjoy a special after hours tour at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA) of the A Nation of Artists exhibition, a historic collaboration with the private Middleton Family Collection** to honor of America's 250th anniversary. **A Nation of Artists at PAFA marks a special moment—the reopening of the Historic Landmark Building, a masterpiece of 19th-century architecture by Frank Furness and George W. Hewitt**. As the first structure in the U.S. designed specifically for both exhibition and art education, its legacy as a museum and school for artistic innovation continues. At PAFA, the exhibition is curated thematically, grouping artworks as never before assembled to explore new ideas, connections, and interpretations of American art. Through these dynamic juxtapositions, visitors will see centuries of American art through a powerful, new lens.

The installation will also include contemporary art from the 21st century, placing today's most exciting living artists in dialogue with those of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. Throughout 2026 and 2027, artist talks and public programs will further enrich the experience of the exhibition, offering opportunities to engage with the artists shaping American art now.

6:45 p.m. Return to our hotel for an independent evening and no-host dinner.

Day Three: Tuesday, September 15th

Enjoy independent no-host breakfast. Suggestions provided.

9:00 a.m. Gather in our hotel lobby to depart by bus.

9:30 a.m. Begin the day with a visit to **a private modern and contemporary collection**. This distinguished collection is comprised of modern and contemporary art, along with some outdoor sculpture. This collection includes Andy Warhol, Dan Flavin sculpture, Dan Graham, George Segal, Mary Frank, Christopher Wilmarth, Lucas Samaras, Jenny Holzer, Frank Stella and much more.

10:30 a.m. Depart by bus for a second **private art collection**.

11:00 a.m. Visit to a superlative **private contemporary art collection** created by two dedicated art patrons in Philadelphia. The collection is focused on modern and contemporary art, and includes work by Rashid Johson, Cecily Brown, Theaster Gates, Julie Mehretu, Adam Pendleton, Ellsworth Kelly, Sean Scully, Kara Walker, and Lorna Simpson, among others. The collection also holds a special place for artists associated with Philadelphia, such as Alex da Corte, Roberto Lugo, Louise Fishman, Howardena Pindell, and Jesse Krimes.

12:30 p.m. Depart by bus.

12:45 p.m. Enjoy a **group lunch** at a restaurant near our afternoon visit.

2:15 p.m. Depart by bus.

2:30 p.m. Enjoy a visit to the studio of **Odili Donald Odita**. Odita is an abstract painter exploring color both in the figurative historical context and in the sociopolitical sense. He was recently commissioned to paint a large mural in the MoMA lobby (through 2026).

4:00 p.m. End our day with a **visit and champagne reception** at a **private historic brick and brownstone building** in Center City, featuring an opulent collection of Victorian antiques and decorative arts. The collectors built their very own Victorian-style conservatory / greenhouse off their home to house an impressive collection of plants, including Aroids, orchids, and bromeliads. (Whitehouse)

5:30 p.m. Return to our hotel for an **independent evening** and no-host dinner on your own. Suggestions will be provided.

Day Four: Wednesday, September 16th 2026

Enjoy independent no-host breakfast. Suggestions provided.

8:30 a.m. Early morning departure for New Hope, PA, a historic river town referred to as one of America's premier art colonies. Situated on the Delaware River, New Hope was once an industrial mill hub and today is a creative sanctuary for painters, actors, and craftsmen.

10:00 a.m. Visit the **George Nakashima Woodworkers Complex** located in New Hope, PA. This was the home of the internationally renowned furniture designer and architect George Nakashima. The 12-acre complex has 21 buildings, all designed by Nakashima in his "organic naturalist" style. The assortment of buildings, scattered across a wooded forest and open lawns, served as Nakashima's home and workspace until his death in 1990.

Eliminate as it repeats what is already said. Nakashima is recognized as one of America's most eminent furniture designer-craftsman and his style of "organic naturalism" can be seen in the buildings, landscape, and furniture.

12:15 p.m. Enjoy lunch nearby at **Lambertville Station**.

1:45 p.m. Depart by bus.

2:15 p.m. Afternoon guided tour of **Fonthill Castle**, a designated HAHS site, followed by a visit to the **Mercer Museum**. Fonthill Castle was the home and showplace of Henry Mercer. The castle serves as an early example of reinforced concrete architecture and features forty-four rooms, over two hundred windows and eighteen fireplaces. Fonthill Castle's interior features Mercer's renowned, handcrafted ceramic tiles designed at the height of the Arts and Crafts movement. The Mercer Museum is a six-story reinforced concrete castle designed by Henry Mercer and completed in 1916. Today, it is one of Bucks County's premier cultural attractions and a Smithsonian affiliate. The museum features local and national traveling exhibits, as well as a core museum collection of over 17,000 pre-Industrial tools. It is famous for the unique way that artifacts are displayed throughout its Central Court as if suspended in mid-air.

5:00 p.m. Return to Philadelphia.

7:00 p.m. Enjoy a **light dinner in a restaurant's private room** with lecture-discussion by Wanda Corn.

Day Five: Thursday, September 17th

Enjoy independent no-host breakfast. Suggestions provided.

9:00 a.m. Gather in our hotel lobby to depart by bus.

9:15 a.m. Start the day with a **special before-opening-hours visit to the Barnes Foundation**. In rooms reflective of the intimate layout and unique character of the original Merion galleries, the architects of this building, Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, have shown remarkable sensitivity to the institutional needs of the Barnes Foundation throughout the concept, design, and construction phases of the Philadelphia campus. The Barnes possesses a world acclaimed collection of Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and early modern art in America. The Foundation's collection includes 59 paintings by Matisse, 181 by Renoir, 69 by Cézanne, 7 by van Gogh and 46 by Picasso.

Enjoy lunch at the **lovely Garden Café at the Barnes** during which we will be treated to a presentation about the building of Calder Gardens by the project's Chief Operating Officer.

1:00 p.m. After lunch we will enjoy a director-led visit to the newly opened **Calder Gardens** which unites the art of Alexander Calder with nature and architecture to create an oasis that invites introspection and nurtures human connection. Featuring a building designed by the Pritzker Prize-winning firm Herzog & de Meuron and gardens by internationally acclaimed landscape designer Piet Oudolf, Calder Gardens will present a rotating selection of masterworks from the Calder Foundation, New York.

2:15 p.m. Depart by bus for the Wharton Esherick Museum.

3:15 p.m. Enjoy a **special private guided tour** of the **Wharton Esherick Museum**, a National Historic Landmark for Architecture and designated HAHS Site. We will journey through the Esherick Studio, a hand-crafted building filled with Esherick's art and personal objects, which is itself an inhabitable artwork, and learn more about Esherick's singular creative vision.

5:30 p.m. Return to Philadelphia.

6:30 p.m. Return to our hotel for an **independent evening** and no-host dinner on your own. Suggestions will be provided.

Day Six: Friday, September 18th, 2026

Enjoy independent no-host breakfast amidst the many downtown options. Suggestions provided.

8:00 am Gather in the hotel lobby to depart promptly for the **Brandywine Valley**. Located just 45 minutes west of Philadelphia, the Brandywine Valley region offers historic attractions, art museums, and scenic countryside.

Eliminate next sentence as it promises too much that we won't see The gardens and arboretums are spectacular destinations for nature lovers, and the historic homes are must-see's for those interested in the decorative arts.

Begin the day with a **guided tour** of the **Brandywine River Museum**, a Civil War-era grist mill on the Brandywine Creek which has been restored and converted into a modern art museum showcasing American art. The museum exhibits the works of Howard Pyle and boasts one of the largest collections of works by three generations of the Wyeth family (N.C, Andrew and Jamie Wyeth) as well as others of the Brandywine School. The Associated Conservancy is dedicated to preserving the Brandywine and the land that is the artists' inspiration.

Special exhibition: By Design: The Worlds of Betsy James Wyeth (1921-2020) tells the story of how the wife of Andrew Wyeth (1917–2009) created vast environmental spaces in Maine and in Pennsylvania to live in and inspire the art of her husband. Drawing from the remarkable and largely unexhibited holdings of the Wyeth Foundation for American Art with important loans from public and private collections, this exhibition sheds light on a rich creative partnership. Rare archival materials, still and interactive imagery of the sites Betsy Wyeth shaped, and many of the original objects that defined her interior compositions create a layered experience, allowing for an exploration of her remote and often inaccessible designed environments as never before.

During our day in the Brandywine Valley, we will enjoy **guided visits** to the homes and **studios of Andrew Wyeth and N.C. Wyeth** (both HAHS Sites).

Andrew Wyeth, one of America's best-known twentieth-century artists, painted many of his most important works of art in his Chadds Ford studio. Given to the Brandywine Museum of Art by the artist's wife, Betsy James Wyeth, the home and studio provide visitors with a unique opportunity to experience this very personal space. This studio, a repurposed schoolhouse originally built in 1875, served as the artist's principal Pennsylvania workplace from 1940 to 2008. Thousands of paintings and drawings were created there, inspired by the people, architecture and landscapes of Chadds Ford. The studio still houses the furnishings, library and collections acquired by the artist, as well as examples of the art materials he used throughout his career. The Andrew Wyeth Studio is a National Historic Landmark and a member site of the Historic Artists' Homes and Studios program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Retaining much of its original character, the studio of **N.C. Wyeth**, with its spectacular Palladian-style north window, still contains many of the props that were essential to the work of an illustrator, including a birch-bark canoe and a collection of firearms. A full-size mural painting, displayed in a soaring 1923 addition, helps tell the story of Wyeth's career. The house, with its country furnishings, reveals a more intimate picture of family life.

We will enjoy **lunch** at the **Millstone Café**.

5:00 pm Return by bus to Philadelphia for 6pm approximate arrival at our hotel.

7:30 p.m. **Farewell Dinner.**

Day Seven: Saturday, September 19th

Enjoy independent no-host breakfast. Suggestions provided.
Independent departures.



Trip cost –

Double occupancy: Per person based upon minimum of 18 travelers: \$5,560.00

Single supplement: \$940.00

Price includes:

- 5 nights double occupancy
- 1 breakfast, 5 lunches, 3 dinners with wine
- All entrance fees and private tours
- Taxes and gratuities for all programmed events
- Art Horizons escort throughout trip

- Private coach for all programmed events
- 1 Historic Artists Homes & Studios book per traveler
- \$200 donation to Historic Artists Homes & Studios

Payment Schedule:

\$1000 deposit due upon registration

Remainder of balance due: August 3rd, 2026
Credit card payments incur 3.7% fee

TO REGISTER: go to <https://art-horizons.com/registration.html> and complete all fields listing **"HAHS Philadelphia"** in the tour destination field.

Note: Airline tickets are not included in tour price. Please do not purchase airline tickets until you have confirmation of the trip from tour organizers. Tour organizers will confirm receipt of all registrations and will inform all travelers of the trip confirmation as soon as possible.

This trip will be physically active and will include standing and walking on uneven terrain.

**For information regarding tour details and registration, please contact Art Horizons International:
Kathryn Covello: kcovello@art-horizons.com, tel 718 986 2896**