

THE DECORATIVE ARTS TRUST

For Immediate Release: December 1, 2021

Contact: Matthew Thurlow, Executive Director, thetrust@decorativeartstrust.org, 610.627.4970

Failey Grants Awarded to Caitlin Meehye Beach, Historic Rock Ford, and New-York Historical Society

— *Decorative Arts Trust Grants Support Noteworthy Research, Exhibition, and Publication Projects* —

Media, PA — The Decorative Arts Trust congratulates author Caitlin Meehye Beach, Historic Rock Ford, and the New-York Historical Society on receiving Failey Grants.

The Failey Grant program provides \$25,000 in support for noteworthy research, exhibition, publication, and conservation projects through the Dean F. Failey Fund, named in honor of the Trust's late Governor. Preference is given to projects that employ or are led by emerging professionals in the museum field.

Caitlin Meehye Beach, an assistant professor in the Department of Art History and affiliated faculty in the Department of African and African American Studies at Fordham University, will utilize grant funds for her forthcoming book, *Sculpture at the Ends of Slavery*, which will be published by the University of California Press in 2022. The text will examine how a wide range of works of sculpture and decorative art—from antislavery medallions to statues of bondpeople bearing broken chains—gave visual form to narratives about abolition in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Historic Rock Ford in Lancaster, PA, will use grant funding for further research and interpretation of the over 200 objects in their John J. Snyder, Jr. Gallery of Early Lancaster County Decorative Arts. Their goal is to uncover more about the shops, apprentices, laborers, indentured laborers, and enslaved workers who contributed to the Gallery's collection of furniture, silver, clocks, and paintings from the mid-1700s to the early 1800s.

The **New-York Historical Society** receives grant funding for the groundbreaking exhibition *Crafting Freedom: Uncovering the Life and Legacy of Free Black Potter Thomas Commeraw*, to be presented January to June 2023 in their Pam & Scott Schafler Gallery. *Crafting Freedom* will be the first exhibition focused solely on Commeraw, a free Black craftsman descended from enslaved people, who was active as a master potter from the 1790s through 1819.

The Decorative Arts Trust is a non-profit membership organization that promotes and fosters the appreciation and study of the decorative arts through exchanging information through domestic and international programming; collaborating and partnering with museums and preservation organizations; and underwriting internships, research grants, and scholarships for graduate students and young professionals. Learn more about the Trust at decorativeartstrust.org or by contacting thetrust@decorativeartstrust.org or 610.627.4970.



Hiram Powers, *The Greek Slave*, model 1841-1843, carved 1846, Florence, Italy. Seravezza marble. National Gallery of Art, Corcoran Collection (Gift of William Wilson Corcoran), 2014.79.37.



A tall clock exhibit at The John J. Snyder, Jr. Gallery of Early Lancaster County Decorative Arts at Historic Rock Ford.



Thomas Commeraw, Jug, 1797-1819, New York, NY. Stoneware, cobalt oxide. Impressed on front: "COMMERAW'S/STONEWARE/CORLEARS/HOOK/N. YORK". New-York Historical Society, purchased from Elie Nadelman, 1937.820.

###