

# THE DECORATIVE ARTS TRUST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## DECORATIVE ARTS TRUST PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION AWARDED TO COOPER HEWITT, SMITHSONIAN DESIGN MUSEUM

— *Dorothy Liebes Exhibition to Open in 2023* —

Media, PA – The Decorative Arts Trust is thrilled to announce that the 2022 Prize for Excellence and Innovation will be awarded to **Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum** for its upcoming exhibition, *A Dark, A Light, A Bright: The Designs of Dorothy Liebes*.

On view from July 7, 2023, through February 4, 2024, *A Dark, A Light, A Bright* will reinstate Dorothy Liebes's extraordinary work within the history of modern American design and re-establish her position among the most influential American designers of the 20th century. Liebes transformed the American interior with her distinctive hand-woven textiles. Over a career that spanned four decades, she was at the forefront of design thinking, offering innovative solutions to the challenges presented by modern living.

*A Dark, A Light, A Bright* will be the first monographic exhibition of Liebes's work in over 50 years. The exhibition is being organized by Cooper Hewitt's Associate Curator and Acting Head of Textiles, **Susan Brown**, and **Alexa Griffith Winton**, Manager of Content and Curriculum, in collaboration with the Archives of American Art.

Cooper Hewitt was founded in 1897 by Sarah and Eleanor Hewitt (the granddaughters of industrialist Peter Cooper), became part of the Smithsonian Institution in 1967, and now occupies the landmark Carnegie Mansion on New York City's Museum Mile. As the design museum of the Smithsonian Institution, Cooper Hewitt welcomes everyone to discover the importance of design through its collections, exhibitions, and educational and public programs. Cooper Hewitt's permanent collection numbers 215,000 objects spanning 30 centuries, and the Design Library holds more than 80,000 volumes.

The Decorative Arts Trust Prize for Excellence and Innovation, founded in 2020, funds outstanding projects that advance the public's appreciation of decorative art, fine art, architecture, or landscape. The Prize is awarded to a non-profit organization in the United States or abroad for a scholarly endeavor, such as a museum exhibition, a print or digital publication, or an online database. Past recipients include **Craft in America** and the **Black Craftspeople Digital Archive**.

For more information about the Prize for Excellence and Innovation, visit [decorativeartstrust.org/prize](http://decorativeartstrust.org/prize).



Dorothy Liebes's studio, New York City, c. 1957; Dorothy Liebes Papers, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.



Sample (USA), Designed by Dorothy Wright Liebes. Cotton, viscose rayon, silk, coated paper, cellophane-laminated aluminum yarn, cellulose acetate-laminated aluminum yarn. Gift of Mrs. Morris D.C. Crawford, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, 1955-71-7. Photo by Matt Flynn © Smithsonian Institution.



# THE DECORATIVE ARTS TRUST

---

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Matthew Thurlow, Executive Director, [thetrust@decorativeartstrust.org](mailto:thetrust@decorativeartstrust.org), 610.627.4970

**ABOUT THE DECORATIVE ARTS TRUST:**

Website: [decorativeartstrust.org](http://decorativeartstrust.org)

Instagram: [@decorativeartstrust](https://www.instagram.com/decorativeartstrust)

Twitter: [@decartstrust](https://twitter.com/decartstrust)

Facebook: [facebook.com/thedecorativeartstrust](https://www.facebook.com/thedecorativeartstrust)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/decorativeartstrust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/decorativeartstrust)

**ABOUT COOPER HEWITT, SMITHSONIAN DESIGN MUSEUM:**

Website: [cooperhewitt.org](http://cooperhewitt.org)

Instagram: [@cooperhewitt](https://www.instagram.com/cooperhewitt)

Twitter: [@cooperhewitt](https://twitter.com/cooperhewitt)

Facebook: [facebook.com/cooperhewitt](https://www.facebook.com/cooperhewitt)