

THE DECORATIVE ARTS TRUST

For Immediate Release:

DECORATIVE ARTS TRUST PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION AWARDED TO DRAYTON HALL

Media, PA – The Decorative Arts Trust is thrilled to announce that the 2024 Prize for Excellence and Innovation will be awarded to **Drayton Hall Preservation Trust** in Charleston, SC, for projects to include the conservation of the plaster ceiling in the house’s Great Hall, the investigation of the plaster ceiling in the Drawing Room, and digital and in-person access to these spaces during conservation treatment and the results of the interventions.

Drayton Hall, built 1738–50, is the earliest example of Palladian architecture in the United States. Surviving in relatively untouched condition, and displayed devoid of furnishings, Drayton Hall offers architectural historians the rare opportunity to study materials and designs from every period in the house’s history.

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 nonprofit organization in the United States for a scholarly endeavor, such as museum exhibitions, print and digital publications, conservation and preservation projects, and online databases. Past recipients include the **Concord Museum; Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum; the Black Craftspeople Digital Archive; and Craft in America.**

For more information about the Prize for Excellence and Innovation, visit decorativeartstrust.org/prize.

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Great Hall ceiling medallion.



Drawing Room ceiling, photo by Willie Graham.