



The New Britain Museum of American Art & Hill-Stead Museum

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

8:15 am – Arrive at the Museums’ State Street parking lot located directly across the street from the Springfield City Library. Park in the lot and board the bus at the curbside. **Depart at 8:30 am.**

9:45 am – Estimated arrival. Enjoy a guided highlights tour of the New Britain Museum of American Art’s extensive collection and special exhibits. Important examples in every genre include: Colonial and Federal portraits, Hudson River School, later nineteenth-century works by Winslow Homer, Thomas Eakins, Mary Cassatt, John Singer Sargent, J. Alden Weir and Frank Benson. Of particular note is an important mural series *The Arts of Life in America* by Thomas Hart Benton. The collection extends into the twentieth century, from American Abstract Artists through Pop Art and Photo-realism.

12 noon – Lunch at the museum. Menu to be announced.

1:15 pm – Meet the bus and depart for **Hill-Stead Museum** for a one hour guided tour of the home. The 1901 country estate of the Pope Family is an architectural treasure filled with Impressionist paintings, Ming vases, Japanese prints, classic decorative arts and American furnishings. From 1901 to 1946, the members of the Pope family entertained many illustrious individuals—authors, artists, poets, academics and presidents at their home.

Hill-Stead’s story begins with founder Theodate Pope Riddle, 1867-1946, the only child of the Pope family. Theodate Pope grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and attended the Miss Porter’s School in Farmington, Connecticut in the late 1880s. She was charmed by the Village of Farmington and its 18th-century homes and envisioned a future of living in the country. She went on to study architecture, sketching and making notes on buildings and scenes she encountered on a Grand Tour of Europe with her parents. Hill-Stead was Theodate’s first complete architectural project modeled on the New England vernacular of the connected farm house and barn.

Theodate Pope was equally interested in the surrounding landscape and took special care when designing the gardens. The English-inspired gardens take advantage of the sweeping vistas and valleys.

3:15 pm – Meet the bus and depart for Springfield with an estimated return by 4:15-4:30 pm.

What to bring: Dress in layers for variable temperatures on the bus and the museums. Water is provided for the ride home.

Photography policy: Art objects in the New Britain Museum’s permanent collection may be photographed without a flash. No interior photos allowed at the Hill-Stead Museum.