Tuesday, May 10, 2022

The Gropius House and The deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum

7:45 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 am sharp.** We will make one rest stop en route.

10:30 am – Estimated arrival for a docent-guided tour of the **Gropius House** in Lincoln, MA. Walter Gropius, founder of the German design school known as the Bauhaus, was one of the most influential architects of the twentieth century. He designed Gropius House as his family home when he came to teach architecture at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. Modest in scale, the house was revolutionary in impact.

Gropius House combines traditional elements of New England architecture—wood, brick, and fieldstone—with innovative materials including glass block, acoustical plaster, chrome banisters, and the latest technology in fixtures. It features furniture designed by Marcel Breuer and fabricated in Bauhaus workshops. With the family's possessions still in place, Gropius House has a sense of immediacy and intimacy. This property is a National Historic Landmark. Please meet the bus at the conclusion of our tour.

The deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum – We'll begin our visit after a group lunch in the Sculpture Park of the Museum. *Lunch choices to be announced.*

The Sculpture Park and museum is located on the former estate of Julian deCordova (1851-1945). The self-educated son of a Jamaican merchant, Julian deCordova became a successful tea broker, wholesale merchant, investor, and president of a glass company in Somerville, Massachusetts. Travel and art were his passions, and deCordova once wrote that he collected "everything that took [his] fancy in every country of the world."

Inspired by his trips to Spain and his own Spanish heritage, Julian remodeled his summer home in Lincoln, Massachusetts in 1910 to resemble a European castle. His exposure to visual arts abroad also influenced his management of the Union Glass Company, which under his stewardship produced ornamental glass to rival the quality of his European competitors.

De Cordova envisioned a place where art would continue to educate and excite beyond his lifetime. To meet that end, he gave his property to the town of Lincoln in 1930 with the stipulation that his estate would become a public museum of art following his death. When it officially opened in 1950, the deCordova Museum became the only museum to focus its exhibitions and collecting activities on living New England artists, while adopting a broad educational program in the visual arts.

With a constantly changing landscape of large-scale, outdoor, modern and contemporary sculpture, and site-specific installations, the Sculpture Park hosts more than 60 works, including *Watershed*, a new site specific installation by sculptor Andy Goldsworthy. Inside, the contemporary museum provides a robust slate of rotating exhibitions and an extensive permanent collection.

3:45 p.m. – Meet the bus at the same location as drop off; depart for Springfield with an estimated return by 6-6:15 pm.

What to bring: Dress in layers for variable temperatures on the bus and the museums; comfortable walking shoes for the outdoor sculpture park. Water provided.