

WoodmereArtMuseum

TELLING THE STORY OF PHILADELPHIA'S ART AND ARTISTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sweet Inspiration: Creative Cakes Inspired by the Illustrations by Charles Santore

March 15 – 22, 2018

PHILADELPHIA – This special one-week exhibition of artistic cakes is inspired by the imaginative illustrations of Charles Santore and [Woodmere Art Museum](#)'s upcoming exhibition *Charles Santore: Fifty Years of Art and Storytelling* which opens February 17, 2018. ***Sweet Inspiration will be on view from March 15-22, 2018 and includes a cake conversation, tasting, and reception held from 6:30-8:30pm on Thursday, March 15.***



Photograph by Brian James Photography, Chestnut Hill

Co-curated by Noelle DeSantis, cake artist and owner of [Ella Vanilla](#) cake decorating supply shop in Chestnut Hill, the cake show will examine the connections between fine art and cake art, highlighting cake design as sculptural, edible artwork. Creations by ten leading Philadelphia-area cake artists and bakeries will be on view alongside their inspiration artwork, capturing the whimsical spirit of Santore's illustrations for classic books, such as *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (2017), *Snow White*, *Peter Rabbit*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and more. Each piece will highlight the concept of cake as artwork and reveal its ability to transform one of Santore's inventive illustrations into an edible sculpture.

Many of the techniques used in illustration art are quite similar in cake decorating, however cake artists replace pen and ink with food coloring, watercolor with petal dusts, and edible wafer paper or malleable icings - such as fondant and gum paste - replace the paper medium. "In fact, there are a large number of professional cake artists who have a formal education in fine art and art history, making the transition into the sugar arts a relatively seamless way for artists to have a career and still use their creativity," said DeSantis.

On Thursday, March 15, a festive cake conversation, tasting and reception will be held on from 6:30-8:30pm at Woodmere Art Museum. The cake artists featured in the exhibition will bring samples of their own special treats for everyone to enjoy.

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About Woodmere Art Museum

Housed in a 19th-century stone mansion on six acres in the Chestnut Hill neighborhood of Philadelphia, Woodmere offers a unique museum experience that centers on the art and artists of Philadelphia. The Museum first opened its doors to the public in 1910. The building, grounds, and core of the permanent collection are the gifts of Charles Knox Smith (1845 – 1916). A passionate collector of contemporary art in his day, Smith was a civic leader of wealth and stature, serving on Philadelphia's Common Council (the precursor to today's City Council). Born of modest means, Smith's first job was that of "grocer's boy," but he eventually built a successful mining company that was active in Mexico. He lived in urban Philadelphia most of his life and purchased the Woodmere estate in 1898 with the grand ambition of creating a spiritual experience through encounters with great works of art in the context of the green beauty of the Wissahickon and Chestnut Hill. Woodmere continues to honor and interpret Smith's vision of bringing art and nature together, and in recent years has acquired important examples of outdoor sculpture. Woodmere's collection consists of more than 6,000 works of art with strengths in Hudson River painting, the circle of Violet Oakley, Pennsylvania Impressionism, the circle of Arthur B. Carles, and Philadelphia's unique brand of modernism and contemporary art. The collection can be viewed online, and Woodmere encourages artists and their friends and families to share information about works in the collection through the museum's website. Studio classes, family activities, tours, lectures, music and film programs, and other special events are scheduled throughout the year.

The Museum is open to the public Tuesday – Thursday 10 am– 5 pm, Friday 10 am – 8:45 pm, Saturday 10 am – 6 pm, and Sunday 10 am – 5 pm. Admission is FREE on Sundays. For more information:

woodmereartmuseum.org.