

founded 1962

FINE ARTS
SOCIETY OF PEORIA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023

Peoria Riverfront Museum

222 SW Washington St., Peoria, IL

MEMBERS free; \$12 NON-MEMBERS and \$5 STUDENTS

GORHAM SILVER: DESIGNING BRILLIANCE, 1850-1970

lecture by Dr. Elizabeth A. Williams



fruit knives, 1879
silver with gilding

From a small shop founded in 1831 in the heart of Providence, Rhode Island, the Gorham Manufacturing Company was an inimitable force in the city and around the globe, growing into the world's largest silver company. Creating some of the most exceptional works ever made in silver, Gorham artisans forever changed the landscape of American decorative arts. Combining industry, ambition, artistry, and technology, makers responded to the era's desire to celebrate, feast, socialize, honor, and simply enjoy the everyday in style.

The Rhode Island School of Design Museum first collected works by the Gorham Manufacturing Company in 1909. The collection has grown to nearly 5,000 objects and design drawings which testify to the brilliance of the makers and innovation of the company's leaders.

Dr. Elizabeth Williams is the David and Peggy Rockefeller Curator of Decorative Arts and Design at the RISD Museum. She holds a PhD in Art History from the University of Kansas, an MA in Art History from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and a BS in Architectural Studies from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She was previously the assistant curator of Decorative Arts and



designer: Erik Magnussen, Danish, 1884-1961
Cubic coffee service, 1927
silver, gilt decoration, ivory

Design at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri.



designer: Thomas Pairpoint, American, 1838-1902
epergne 1872 with plateau, 1876
silver with gilding



[Objects illustrated here were manufactured by Gorham Manufacturing Company, American, founded 1831 and are part of The Gorham Collection, Rhode Island School of Design Museum, gifts of Textron Inc. 1991.126]

For more information and the 2023-2024 schedule and membership form, visit www.FineArtsSociety.net

*EXPLORING * EXPANDING * ENLIVENING the Fine Arts in Peoria*