WHARTON
ESHERICK
AND THE
BIRTH OF
THE
AMERICAN
MODERN

CALL FOR PAPERS
A symposium co-sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania Libraries, the Wharton Esherick Museum, and Hedgerow Theatre

WHARTON HARRIS ESHERICK (1887-1970), a Philadelphia native, began his career as an American Impressionist painter, but found success in other media. During the course of the 1920s he explored block printmaking, and then shifted to sculpture, allowing sculptural forms to evolve into architecture, furniture, and other functional objects. Although he resided in rural Paoli, Pennsylvania, he was influenced by numerous places, both rural and urban, and more importantly by the people he met there, many of whom were at the forefront of creating American modernism. Among them were Sherwood Anderson, Theodore Dreiser, Jasper Deeter (Hedgerow Theatre), Harold Mason (Centaur Press), Carl Zigrosser (Weyhe Gallery), Amory Hare, and Henry Varnum Poor.

In conjunction with a major exhibition on Wharton Esherick and his milieu in the 1920s and 1930s, this symposium will not only explore the personal interconnections among these figures but also examine the theoretical and historical context of their interactions. Papers focusing on Esherick’s personal, literary, and artistic relationships with the figures mentioned above, as well as those examining their intersections with the major political and cultural movements of the period, are welcome. Symposium papers should be 20 minutes long (10 pages), and will be considered for inclusion in a subsequent publication. Some travel support may be available.

Confirmed speakers include Mansfield Bascom (Wharton Esherick Museum), Mark Sfirri (Bucks County Community College), Penelope Reed (Hedgerow Theatre), Roberta Mayer (Bucks County Community College), and Paul Eisenhauer (Wharton Esherick Museum). In addition to papers, this two-day symposium will feature a behind-the-scenes tour of the Wharton Esherick Museum, a symposium dinner in Rose Valley, followed by a special performance at the Hedgerow Theatre, and a walking tour of Esherick sites in Philadelphia.

For more information call Lynne Farrington at 215.898.7088 or visit the symposium website: www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/esherick.html.