



For Immediate Release

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What Includes a Walk-Through Futuristic Greenhouse, Experimental Music, an Original Play about Botany, Gastronomic Podcasts, and a Really Cool GPS Treasure Hunt?

***THE GREENHOUSE PROJECTS* PRESENTS FIVE CONTEMPORARY TAKES ON THE EXHIBITION
“OF ELEPHANTS AND ROSES: ENCOUNTERS WITH FRENCH NATURAL HISTORY, 1790-1830”**

Philadelphia, PA, August 5, 2011—A greenhouse for the 21st century grows in the American Philosophical Society’s (APS) garden near the corner of Fifth and Chestnut Streets. It is inspired by ideas and themes in the Museum’s current exhibition *Of Elephants and Roses*, and riffs on Empress Josephine’s large glass greenhouse featured in the show. Digitally designed and constructed of recycled materials, it’s the centerpiece of the *Greenhouse Projects*, a series of inter-related programs that debut on September 9, 2011.

The APS Museum invited five Philadelphians—architect Jenny Sabin, composer Kyle Bartlett, actor Aaron Cromie, radio producer Lari Robling, and historian Erin McLeary—to create innovative programs that put a contemporary spin on issues and ideas presented in the exhibition. The result is five projects that use new technology and current ideas to explore the history, science, and art of post-revolutionary France and relate them to issues today.

Architecture

Greenhouse and Cabinet of Future Fossils

September 9-December 3, 2011

Jenny Sabin’s portable, environmentally sustainable structure redefines greenhouse architecture for our carbon-conscious era. The 52’ (l) x 14’ (w) x 12’ (h) pre-fabricated structure has no glass and requires no heat. Empress Josephine would hardly recognize it. Instead, the vine-covered structure consists of recycled and recyclable plastic “plywood” ribs that contain 125 brightly-colored translucent acrylic cold-frames (mini-greenhouses). Inside the removable cold-frames, a variety of edible and ornamental plant materials demonstrate the versatility of this age-old method for growing plants while controlling climate. Along one wall, Sabin has invented a “Cabinet of Future Fossils”—like the cabinets of curiosities that early scientists maintained. But, Sabin’s organically-shaped and 3D-printed “fossils” are generated from cutting-edge processes incorporating digital fabrication.

The recipient of a 2010 Pew Fellowship for her work “at the forefront of an architectural practice that applies insights and theories from nature and science to the design of material structures,” Sabin recently accepted a position in the College of Architecture, Art & Planning at Cornell University.

Music

Chaotic Menagerie

September 9-December 3, 2011

Inside the Greenhouse, composer Kyle Bartlett has created a site-specific sound installation that is a collage of tunes from the French Revolution, animal and nature sounds, and [her own](#) adventurous experimental music. Based on the five sections of the exhibition, the work layers effects—from chainsaws and an elephant’s trumpeting to the sound of wind through trees and her own compositions—and then shuffles them to create a unique sound experience for every Greenhouse visitor.

Kyle Bartlett is a resident composer for the new-music ensemble “counter)induction” and new works administrator for the Opera Company of Philadelphia.

Theater

A Paper Garden: An Idiosyncratic and Indefatigable Account of Empress Josephine and André Michaux’s Love of Botany

Fri. Sept. 2: noon & 6pm/Sat. Sept. 3 -- 1 and 3pm/Sun. Sept. 4 -- 1 and 3pm

Fri. Sept. 9: noon & 6pm/Sat. Sept. 10 -- 1 and 3pm/Sun. Sept. 11 -- 1 and 3pm

Fri. Sept. 16: noon & 6pm/Sat. Sept. 17 -- 1 and 3pm

The 2011 Philly Fringe Festival meets French fare in this witty and imaginative play set in the APS garden with the Greenhouse as the backdrop. It’s the story of a friendship that blooms with magical effects and silly songs. The intrepid arborist André Michaux (Tuomanen) who spent ten years in America hunting for trees that could be grown in France, his cantankerous assistant Saunier (Cromie), and the charming Empress (Perrier) who shares an interest in botany, take a time-shifting tour through past, present, and future in search of a utopian garden.

Aaron Cromie is a Philadelphia-based multidisciplinary theater artist who has collaborated as performer, designer, director, writer and musician. Geneviève Perrier and Mary Tuomanen are two actresses well-known to Philadelphia audiences.

Family

“Ghost Gardens and Lost Landscapes”

Launching September 9

Intrepid adventurers of the urban persuasion can discover forgotten landmarks of Philadelphia from the early days of our Republic using just a smartphone. Historian Erin McLeary has created a geocaching treasure hunt that challenges explorers to find hidden “caches” (small waterproof boxes) on the sites of past gardens and historical sites around the city. Each cache contains a cellphone number that leads to a URL and images that illustrate the lost landscape. Most sites are in the neighborhood of the APS Museum and Independence National Historical Park, including Bernard M’Mahon’s Seedhouse (2nd and Market Streets), which sent American seeds to European gardeners.

Erin McLeary is an exhibit developer at the National Constitution Center.

Food

“Vive La France: French Cuisine and the Evolution of Modern Cooking (With Recipes),” Podcasts Launching September 9th

The post-Revolutionary scientific and cultural changes that rocked Paris in the early nineteenth century also changed French gastronomy. Radio producer Lari Robling has created five aurally-rich podcasts featuring experts such as Susan Pinkard, author of *A Revolution In Taste*, cultural historian Adam Gopnik, and journalist, and wine expert George Taber, who trace the historical, cultural, and scientific currents that spurred the development of classic French cuisine. Food writer and cookbook author Dorie Greenspan, who spends several months each year in France, contributes the recipes.

Lari Robling produces the “Fit” series for WHY radio, is a member of Les Dames d'Escoffier International, an honorary society of professional women in the culinary arts, and is the author of *Endangered Recipes Too Good To Be Forgotten*.

Exhibition

Of Elephants & Roses: Encounters with French Natural History, 1790-1830
To December 31, 2011

In the golden age of French science, explorers brought the wondrous flora and fauna of the new world home to Paris. Musicians arranged a concert for elephants at the Museum of Natural History; artists turn botanical studies into exquisite drawings on paper and porcelain; a giraffe walked 800 kilometers across France to pay a call on the King; scientists shared their newfound knowledge with their colleagues across the Atlantic at the American Philosophical Society; and Empress Josephine kept two Australian black swans on her estate at Malmaison. See it all in this exhibition featuring rare books, scientific specimens, documents, and letters as well as artwork including watercolors, hand-painted porcelain, and popular everyday objects decorated with exotic flora and fauna that represent Parisian encounters with the natural world at the dawn of the nineteenth century.

Lectures, Concerts and Other Programs

Event	Date	Address
Lecture by artist and architect Fritz Haeg whose work is influenced by ecology and gardening.	Tuesday, September 20, 2011	Franklin Hall 427 Chestnut Street
Family Weekend in Jefferson Garden	Saturday & Sunday September 24-25, 2011	East side of 5 th Street between Chestnut and Walnut Streets
<i>The Mighty, the Stinky and the Just Plain Pretty</i> , an unconventional walking tour of Center City trees including ginkgos, oaks and	Saturday, September 24, 2011 Sunday, September 25, 2011 Saturday, October 22, 2011	Meet at Philosophical Hall 104 S, Fifth Street

<i>Franklinia</i> led by Ben Cromie		
“Between Architecture, Nature and Technology: Material Analogs,” a lecture and tour by Greenhouse architect Jenny Sabin. This is presented in connection with DesignPhiladelphia.	Thursday, October 20, 2011	Philosophical Hall 104 S. Fifth Street
Composer Kyle Bartlett leads visitors in composing music	Friday, November 4, 2011	Philosophical Hall
Concert by counter)induction with resident composer Kyle Bartlett	Sunday, November 6, 2011	Benjamin Franklin Hall 427 Chestnut Street

INFORMATION

The *Greenhouse and Cabinet of Future Fossils*, the sound installation *Chaotic Menagerie* and *A Paper Garden* will be presented in the American Philosophical Society’s Jefferson Garden on the eastside of Fifth Street, between Chestnut and Walnut Streets.

Greenhouse Hours

September & October

Wed, Thurs, Fri, 10 am – 6 pm (to 8 pm on First Friday)

Sat & Sun, 10 am – 4 pm

November – December 14, 2011

Thursday – Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

All Greenhouse Projects events are **free** and open to the public.

Digital Images Available Upon Request

Podcasts and *Ghost Gardens* information can be accessed at <http://www.apsmuseum.org/greenhouse-projects>

The Greenhouse Projects is funded by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage through the Heritage Philadelphia Program.

Of Elephants and Roses: Encounters with French Natural History

March 25-December 31, 2011.

American Philosophical Society (APS) Museum

104 S. Fifth Street/Philadelphia, PA 19106

(215) 440-3440 www.apsmuseum.org

Exhibition Hours:

Same as for Greenhouse Projects above

\$1 Donation requested

This exhibition has been made possible in part by the generous support of the Florence Gould Foundation, the Richard Lounsbery Foundation, the Crystal Trust, The Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, and the Alexander G. Bearn Memorial Fund.

The American Philosophical Society (APS) Museum

When Benjamin Franklin decided, in 1743 to establish America's first "learned society," he called it the American Philosophical Society (APS) because he and his friends practiced the objective study of nature and called themselves natural philosophers. Now we'd call them scientists. But the word "philosophical" stuck.

Today the APS Museum presents ambitious exhibitions that explore the intersections of history, science and art in new and thought-provoking ways. The displays present the Society's treasure trove of important collections that trace American history from the Founding Fathers to the computer age: scientific specimens and instruments, art works, maps, 300,000 books, and some 11 million manuscripts.

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