



The Cleveland Museum of Art

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ART MUSEUM'S *WINTER LIGHTS: STORYTELLING AND LANTERN MAKING* PART OF HOLIDAY CIRCLEFEST

The Cleveland Museum of Art is joining with its University Circle neighbors to present the first Holiday CircleFest, a winter evening open house, at 5-9 pm on December 7, complete with music, seasonal food and drink, jingle-belled carriage rides, luminarias, and holiday shopping. In keeping with the theme of special lights and candles in the winter traditions of many cultures, the Art Museum's contribution to the evening's festivities is **Winter Lights: Storytelling and Lantern Making**, from 6:30 to 8 pm in the Museum's north lobby, culminating in a lantern procession around Wade Oval at 8 pm. Warm cider and gingerbread with whipped cream will be served in the lobby, and the Museum Store will be open, including its special holiday shop of silver and other glittering gifts inspired by the special exhibition of silver, **All That Glitters: Great Silver Vessels in Cleveland's Collection**.

In addition to free on-the-spot lantern making the night of CircleFest, two advance studio sessions will teach more elaborate techniques: Wednesday, November 30, at 6:30-8 pm; and Sunday, December 4, at 3-4:30 pm. In these workshops, participants will make lanterns from tin, punched with a nail; rattan or split bamboo and papier maché paper or tissue paper; and wood and rice paper or tissue paper; lights inside will be tea candles or miniature flashlights. Register for the advance workshops by calling 421-7340, ext. 461; a fee of \$12/family or \$5/person includes materials.

The events on December 7 require no registration or fees. Museum staff will tell winter myths and legends from a variety of cultures. Participants in the CircleFest evening workshop will create lanterns from tagboard and rice paper. The Museum's north entrance will be decorated with large lanterns created by Museum staff and area artists, and from it local musicians will lead the 8 pm procession out to Wade Oval.

Robin VanLear, instructor in the Museum's department of education and public programs and originator of University Circle's annual June "Parade the Circle," is coordinating **Winter Lights**. Ms. VanLear's inspiration for this project: the special lights central to celebrations of Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanzaa, and winter holidays in other religions; and nostalgia for an era long ago, when most of the University Circle institutions were founded, when people ventured out on foot at night, lighting their way with hand-carried lanterns.

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Press Release

In addition to **Winter Lights: Storytelling and Lantern Making**, the following events will be offered to Art Museum visitors during the evening of Holiday CircleFest: The Cleveland Institute of Music Carollers sing favorite holiday songs at 6 pm; chief curator of western art Henry H. Hawley talks about "Silver and the Rococo Style" at 7 pm; the French comedy "Le Beau Mariage" is shown at 7:30 pm; and the special exhibition *All That Glitters: Great Silver Vessels in Cleveland's Collection*, 61 of the Museum's finest silver and gilded silver works dating from 1000 BC to the early 20th century (on view through January 8), will be open until the Museum closes at 9:45 pm. The Museum Cafe will serve dinner and light snacks until 8:30 pm.

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Key presenters of Holiday CircleFest--all of which will be open free that evening--are. (in alphabetical order) The Cleveland Botanical Garden, The Cleveland Institute of Art, The Cleveland Institute of Music, The Cleveland Museum of Art, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and The Western Reserve Historical Society, with the assistance of University Circle Incorporated. For more information about other Holiday CircleFest events, please contact Whitney F. Bohan at University Circle Incorporated: 791-3900.

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