



# C D A P R O G R A M

Cleveland Decorative Arts  
www.clevelanddecorativearts.org

**Friday, April 4, 2025**

**6:00pm Social Time, Presentation at 6:30pm**

**Chagrin Valley Hunt Club**

**7620 Old Mill Road, Gates Mills, OH 44040**

Katie McKinney

Margaret Beck Pritchard Associate Curator of Maps & Prints  
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

The legacy of the Robert Furber 1730's flower prints and their influence on 20<sup>th</sup> century decorating both at Colonial Williamsburg and in the United States

April

October



Robert Furber's series of prints known as The Twelve Months of Flowers, originally created as a seed catalogue for Furber's London nursery, have a long history here in Virginia's colonial capitol. John Custis



bragged in the 1730s that he helped procure customers for Furber's prints and proudly displayed them in his home -- the site of which is the focus of a major archaeological excavation to better understand Custis' renowned gardens. In the 20th century, they inspired and were used as resources by Louise Fisher, who was the first floral arranger at Colonial Williamsburg. Fisher instigated a historically informed approach to floral design that would go on to influence future generations and define the Colonial Williamsburg style. Reproduction prints sold as part of The Foundation's products line have graced the walls of homes throughout the 20th century becoming collectors' items in their own right and serve as design inspiration today. Contemporary scholars and historians still refer to these engravings to understand the types of flowers, shrubs, and trees that excited the botanical community in eighteenth-century England and overseas. Just as they were decorative yet functional when they were originally published, they continue to inspire and inform today. *Image credits on page 2.*

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**Please send your reply and check to TERENCE SHERIDAN, CDA TREASURER  
8774 STATE ROUTE 45, NORTH BLOOMFIELD, OH 44450  
440-685-4410 tsheridan710@gmail.com with questions or reservations**

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER**

### **Katie McKinney**



Katie McKinney is the Margaret Beck Pritchard Curator of Maps and Prints at The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation where she oversees the museum's print, map, and natural history collections. In October 2024, Katie opened the exhibit *Celebrity in Print* at the Art Museums at Colonial Williamsburg which explores how the 18th century English market for portrait prints played a role in the genesis of our modern concept of "celebrity." Katie was the co-curator of the exhibit *Promoting America: Maps of the Colonies and the New Republic* and she is currently co-curating an exhibit on Colonial Williamsburg's centennial that will open in 2026. She holds a master's degree from the Winterthur

Program in American Material Culture at the University of Delaware (2015) and a BA in art history and history from James Madison University (2011). Katie has previously held positions at Monticello and Sotheby's and has participated in the Historic Deerfield Summer Fellowship, The Classical Institute of the South's Summer Field Study, the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts Summer Institute, and the Attingham Summer School. She has contributed essays to several books and has published articles with the *Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts* and the *American Philosophical Society*.

#### IMAGE CREDITS

April (1940-387 A) and October (1940-393 A), published by Robert Furber, engraved by Henry Fletcher after work by Peter Casteels, London 1730, line engraving and etching on laid paper with hand coloring, Museum Purchase, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.