



Wharton Esherick  
Museum

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS • 1972 - 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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***Home as Site***

**March 3, 2022 – May 15, 2022**

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**Wharton Esherick Museum Celebrates 50 Year Anniversary with Installation Series  
Exploring Ideas of “Home”**

**Malvern, PA** – The Wharton Esherick Museum (WEM) is pleased to announce the opening of *Home as Site*, on view beginning March 3, 2022, the first in a series of three installations exploring ideas of “home” in celebrations of the museum’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

WEM’s campus was home to Esherick in more ways than one. It was the literal home where Esherick’s life unfolded through a myriad of changes in his family and identity. It was also Esherick’s artistic home, a home to his truest expression of self and the site where he created the vast majority of his work. Esherick considered his Studio, which is now the centerpiece of the Museum and a National Historic Landmark for Architecture, an autobiography in three dimensions.



*Esherick Studio with bathroom and kitchen addition, 1947.  
Wharton Esherick Museum Collection.*

*Home as Site* explores the physical nature and architecture of the WEM campus, including what gives the site its power and how it came to be. While we might think of the Studio and WEM campus as static because it has changed very little over the past 50 years, during Esherick’s lifetime the site was dynamic and responsive. How did Esherick’s original ideas, and subsequent changes to the architecture and organization of this singular place, allow for a series of creations and re-creations of home? Who were critical collaborators, partners, and sounding boards for the site’s architecture as it changed between 1913 – when the Eshericks settled at the Sunekrest farmhouse – and Esherick’s passing in 1970? How has the site gained new purpose and possibility since opening to the public?

On view in the installation are images, blueprints (including plans for Esherick’s collaboration with internationally renowned architect Louis I. Kahn), and other materials from WEM’s collection which illuminate how the Studio site changed over time and in response to Esherick’s evolution as an artist and person. The next phase of the site’s architectural evolution is also a part of the installation.

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*Sam Olshin, AOS Architects, Roof Studies, 2019. Watercolor, 11" x 13." Courtesy of Atkin Olshin Schade (AOS) Architects.*

“On view are materials related to the museum’s Campus Masterplan project completed by Atkin Olshin Schade Architects, which envisions the first newly built additions to the site in five decades,” reflects WEM Director of Curatorial Affairs and Strategic Partnerships Emily Zilber. “There are many steps to go before this vision for the campus becomes reality, but seeing the site and Esherick’s work through the eyes of contemporary architects is an exciting – and fitting – progression for a place that has taken on many forms over the course of its lifetime.”

*Home as Site* is an onsite exhibition open March 3, 2022 – May 15, 2022. The exhibition will be on view in the Visitor Center, which is open during the Museum’s current tour hours.

**Please note, to enter the Museum you must make advance reservations for a tour.** Details about visiting, open hours, and COVID-19 safety guidelines can be found at [whartonesherickmuseum.org](http://whartonesherickmuseum.org).

The Museum’s *Home As...* series will continue with *Home as Self*, WEM’s 28th Annual Juried Woodworking Exhibition, opening in June, and *Home as Stage* this fall. Updates on these and other 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year programs can be found at [whartonesherickmuseum.org/programs/](http://whartonesherickmuseum.org/programs/).

**About the Wharton Esherick Museum:** The Wharton Esherick Museum, located just outside of Valley Forge Park in Malvern, PA is the handcrafted home and studio of Wharton Esherick (1887-1970), an internationally significant artist and leader of the Studio Furniture Movement. Esherick worked primarily in wood and extended his unique forms to furniture, furnishings, interiors, buildings, and more. His motto, “If it isn’t fun, it isn’t worth doing,” is evident in the joyful expression of his work. A National Historic Landmark for Architecture, his hilltop studio/residence, with more than 300 of his works on exhibition, has been preserved much as it was when the artist lived and worked there.



Wharton Esherick’s Studio. Photo by Charles Uniatowski, courtesy of the Wharton Esherick Museum.

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