

**“The Best Possible Visitor Experience”  
2026 Mansion Docent Training  
Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens**

March 23

**Objectives**

After completing this session of the training program, participants will be better able to:

1. Identify how to discuss paintings and portraits as material culture objects;
  2. Incorporate paintings and portraits on their tours so they support the “big ideas” and main stories of Hillwood.
  3. Identify the object and the preparation for the development of the Second Five-Minute Object Lesson.
- I. Distill lecture & discussion of Paintings and Portraiture
  - II. Do One in the Mansion
    - A. Find a collection object in the mansion
    - B. Complete “Brainstorming in the Mansion for the Second Five-Minute Object Lesson” worksheet
    - C. Questions/concerns
  - III. Preparation for the Second Five-Minute Object Lesson
    - A. Find a collection object suitable
      1. Switch nationalities to Russian, and choose a Russian object to be covered prior to April 13
        1. Fabergé or Russian metalwork (Feb 17), Russian painting (Mar 23), or Russian porcelain or glass (Apr 7)
        2. Choose a Russian object in a room on the tour
          1. Entry Hall, Icon Room, Russian Porcelain Room, Pavilion
      2. Choose a Russian object in a room on the tour
    - B. Do Object Research & Complete “Brainstorming for the Second Five-Minute Object Lesson” worksheet
    - C. Review object-lesson documents you already have:
      1. Guidelines for Developing a Five-Minute Object Lesson
      2. Template for a Written Lesson Plan for a Five-Minute Object Lesson
      3. Self-Assessment Worksheet (from First Five-Minute Object Lesson)
    - D. April 7: Scheduling Second Five-Minute Object Lesson
    - E. April 13-17: Presentations of Second Five-Minute Object Lesson
  - IV. Step back
    - A. What can you take away from this session?
    - B. Did we meet the objectives?
  - V. Looking ahead
    - A. March 30-April 3: No class scheduled. We recommend you take advantage by preparing for the next class, catching up on reading, and/or begin developing your second five-minute object lesson.
    - B. Next Class: Tuesday, April 7, 6-9 p.m. onsite in the C.W. Post Center on Russian Porcelain & Glass