

Portrait of Lloyd Patterson

Label Text for Temporary Display in Entry Hall

On View: October 13-December 15, 2026

As part of Hillwood's mansion window replacement project, the [*Portrait of Lloyd Patterson*](#), on long-term loan to Hillwood through March 2027, has been temporarily moved to the entry hall while the pavilion is closed for work.

Please see below for the label text that will accompany the painting while it is in its temporary location above the demilune table next to the coat check.

Portrait of Lloyd Patterson

This painting, on long-term loan to Hillwood since 2022, is typically on view in the pavilion. While the room is temporarily closed, this beautiful portrait of Lloyd Patterson (1910–1942), an artist who settled in the Soviet Union in the early 1930s, is displayed here.

In 1932, during the Great Depression and the height of the Harlem Renaissance, a twenty-two-year-old Patterson traveled to Russia to participate in *Black and White*, a Soviet-German film meant to highlight racism in the United States. The project attracted a number of Black American actors, students, activists, and cultural figures of the Harlem Renaissance, including Langston Hughes (1901–1967), Louise Thompson (1901–1999), and Dorothy West (1907–1998).

While most of the group returned to the United States after the film project's cancellation, Patterson stayed on in Moscow, marrying the Ukrainian-born theater artist and fashion designer Vera Aralova (1911–2001) and working as a designer and a newsreader for Soviet radio. The couple became a staple of influential art circles. Their son James Patterson (1933–2025) was briefly a child actor, costarring in *The Circus*, a beloved musical comedy about racial harmony directed by Grigori Aleksandrov (1903–1983) in 1936, the year prior to Marjorie Post's arrival in Moscow as the wife of the U.S. ambassador, Joseph E. Davies (1876–1958). Lloyd was killed during the war, in 1942. James later became a poet, and after the collapse of the Soviet Union, he and his mother moved to Washington, DC, where he resided until his passing in 2025.



Portrait of Lloyd Patterson (1910–1942)

Attributed to Porfiry Nikitich Krylov (Russian, 1902–1990)

Moscow, mid-1900s

Oil on canvas

On loan from Andrew Leddy