The Wayne State Libraries, in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution's Freer Gallery of Art, have created an innovative new website that allows the exploration of the Peacock Room. Formerly located in WSU’s Freer house in Detroit, *The Story of the Beautiful* connects virtual tours of the Peacock Room to places and faces associated with its dynamic, cosmopolitan history, from its controversial creation in Victorian London by the expatriate American artists James McNeill Whistler (1834–1903) to its subsequent use as an aesthetic laboratory in Detroit by the Gilded Age collector and industrialist Charles Lang Freer (1854–1919), who founded the Freer Gallery of Art—the first art museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

Come and explore the Peacock Room with online virtual tours, and learn more about the objects it has contained, from the “Chinamania” of the London version to the “choice specimens Eastern pottery” in the Detroit iteration.

Joshua Neds-Fox is Coordinator for Digital Publishing in the WSU Libraries, guiding the creation and curation of digital content from the Libraries and their partners.

Shawn McCann is a Digital Projects Librarian in the WSU libraries responsible for the library system’s endeavors in digitization and digital collection building.

Dr. Dina Mein is the former Director of New Media and Information Technology at Wayne State University, and was the overall manager for a large portfolio of digital projects, with multiple roles of design, development, implementation, and collection management, preservation and access on the web.

**DATE:**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2011**

**TIME:**

12:30 PM - 1:30PM

**PLACE:**

2339 Faculty/Administration Building

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**