



TIMKEN
MUSEUM
OF ART

News Release

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**Timken Museum of Art Presents
JEWELS OF THE SEASON
on Display in Balboa Park at the
San Diego Model Railroad Museum
December 1-31, 2020**

- ***A holiday favorite and change of venue: The dazzling ‘Jewels of the Season’ will be on display at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum while Timken is closed for visitor improvements.***
- ***Back by popular demand: Jewels Holiday Ornament-Making Workshop—Design your own ‘Jewels of the Season’—popular classes take place online December 5 and 7.***
- ***Online ‘Jewels of the Season’ lecture with Timken ornament specialist Lynne Thompson on Thursday, December 17, discussing the history and intricate workmanship of the ornaments.***

The Timken Museum of Art’s ‘Jewels of the Season’ tradition continues—but at a different location this year. While the Timken is closed for visitor improvements, the dazzling Jewels of the Season will be on display at the **San Diego Model Railroad Museum**, December 1 – January 4. Jewels of the Season, a glittering collection of holiday ornaments bursting with color, elaborate filigree and whimsical designs will decorate the Pacific Beach Model Railroad Club Room. The Jewels are a sensory extravaganza and have been a San Diego “must-see” during the holiday season for many years. In addition to the Jewels of the Season, the San Diego Model Railroad Museum will also feature its own holiday exhibition with Walt’s Barn: “The Carolwood Pacific: Walt’s Magical Railroad”. The Timken will also present two online,

interactive holiday workshops offering attendees the opportunity to make their own Jewels of the Season on December 5 and 7.

Jewels of the Season features gems, sequins, stone and filigree from around the world. The decorative ornaments, often compared to Faberge eggs, were designed and handcrafted by Florence Hord and Elizabeth Schlappi. Hord, wife of the renowned American sculptor, Donal Hord, began making the exquisite ornaments in the 1930s. Noteworthy in his own right Donal Hord created the monumental Guardian of the Water sculpture fountain in 1939, which still stands in front of the San Diego County Administration Building. In 1959, Florence Hord invited family friend, Elizabeth Schlappi, to help with her efforts, and together they grew the collection to more than 1,400 ornaments.

A special thank you goes to San Diegan **Lynne Thompson**, a close friend of Elizabeth Schlappi. When Elizabeth was not able to participate in the holiday installation and care of the ornaments, she gave them to Thompson, who each year organizes a group of volunteers in decorating the Timken's holiday tree. Thompson eventually donated the ornament collection to the Timken. Hord and Schlappi could not have imagined that their holiday ornaments and heirlooms would become one of San Diego's most popular holiday traditions embraced and enjoyed by residents and tourists alike. Lynne Thompson will present an online *Jewels of the Season* live lecture, hosted by the San Diego Model Railroad Museum on Thursday, December 17 at 5:00 pm.

Back by Popular Demand:

Holiday Workshops: *The Art of 'Jewels of the Season'*

The Timken is offering two, online interactive workshops to design your very own *Jewels of the Season*-inspired ornament. The workshop is designed for both beginners and seasoned crafting professionals to create an heirloom-quality treasure in the style of the original artists, Hord and Schlappi. Using glittering gems, swirls of color and elaborate filigree, the workshop participants will be guided through the process each step of the way by the Timken's own teaching artist, Elizabeth Washburn.

Jewels of the Season / Online Family Class

Saturday, December 5, 2020

10:00 to 11:30am

\$50 for Timken members, \$60 for non-members

Best for children ages 5 to 10; an adult must be present during the class.

Jewels of the Season / Online Adult Class

Monday, December 7, 2020

4:00 to 6:00pm

\$55 for members, \$85 for non-members

Online Lecture: Jewels of the Season

Speaker: Lynne Thompson, San Diego's ornament specialist
Thursday, December 17, 2020
5:00 pm

The Timken Museum of Art in conjunction with San Diego Model Railroad Museum will present an online lecture with the Timken's Lynne Thompson, *Jewels of the Season* ornament specialist and personal friend of Elizabeth Schlappi. Thompson will discuss artisans Florence Hord and Elizabeth Schlappi, history of the ornaments, the design using gems, sequins, stones and filigree collected from around the world and how she came to inherit the Jewels and ultimately donate them to the Timken. Don't miss this fascinating discussion about *Jewels of the Season*, one of San Diego's most dazzling holiday traditions.

For more information:

To enroll in the *Jewels of the Season* holiday workshops (Dec 5 & 7), call the Timken at 619.550-5099 or visit www.timkenmuseum.org. Attend the online *Jewels of the Season* lecture (Dec 17) by registering at <https://www.sdmrm.org/modelercitizens>, or see the *Jewels of the Season* display at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum Dec 1-Jan 4: www.sdmrm.org.

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