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100 YEARS 1922–2022

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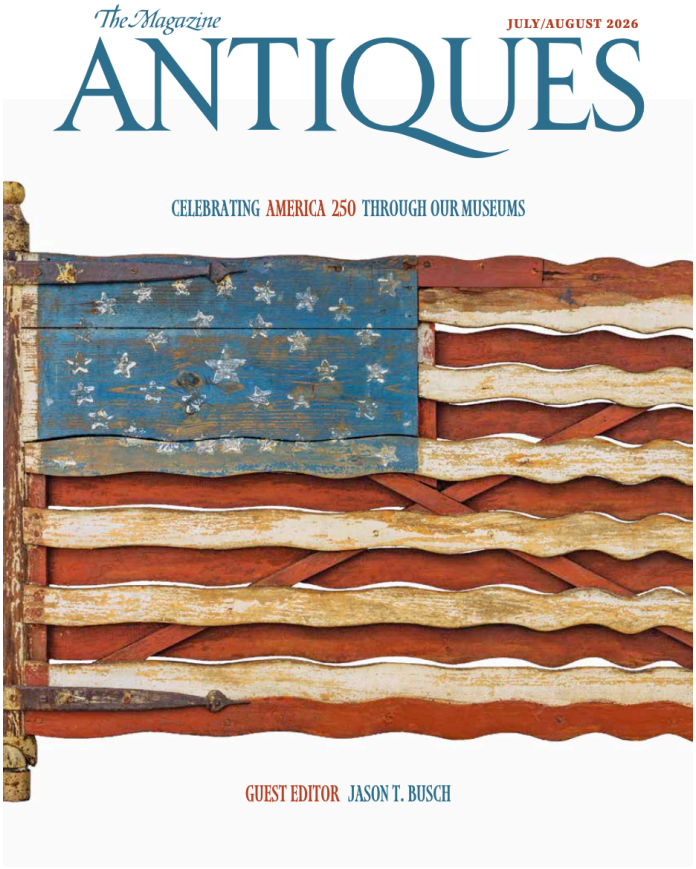
JULY/AUGUST 2026

GUEST EDITOR'S LETTER

Jason T. Busch

PERSPECTIVES

Jason T. Busch describes the painting that began his
love of art, David Fierman explains how the Living
Museum at Creedmoor Psychiatric Center got its
start, and Peter Pap delves into a controversial trend
in antique rugs.



Saltillo serape depicting George Washington, northern Mexico, c. 1875. Wool with cotton warp, 91 by 45 inches. This blanket reflects the cross-cultural demand for souvenirs tied to rising American nationalism

around the period of the nation's Centennial. Photograph courtesy Material Culture, Philadelphia.

THE OBSCURE CONNOISSEUR

Part VI: In which the author takes a field trip to the ashtray show at the International Museum of Dinnerware Design.

Ralph Gardner Jr.

Illustrated by Colleen Bayley Harrington

OBJECTS

Here Comes the Sun: Obsolete yet beloved, the sundial traces a path from ancient necessity to decorative art, preserving centuries of ingenuity and romance.

Benjamin Davidson and Pippa Biddle

IDEAS

Cara Zimmerman compiles dealers' thoughts on the state of the folk and outsider art markets at the Semiquincentennial, Emily Bode offers a new perspective on the art of the quilt with the American Folk Art Museum's Emelie Gevalt, and a

new school
for art and meditation opens in Upstate New York.

CONVERSATIONS

Art Beyond Boundaries: Jason T. Busch speaks with
Christophe Cherix, director of the Museum of Modern
Art, about championing folk and self-taught art at one
of the nation's most influential museums.
Edited by Mitch Case

MUSEUMS

Long Island Preservation dives into the history of its
rich local furniture trade, Historic Bethlehem opens a
vault of rare dollhouses, the Katonah Museum of Art
receives a special loan, and the Center for American
Decoys celebrates a distinctly Illinoisan art form.

HIDDEN GEMS

The curator emeritus of the Academy of Natural
Sciences at Drexel University explores the strange

history of the bezoar, and a curious new antiques
gallery opens in Connecticut.

STYLE

Finery and Fortune: An excerpt from the author's new
book Gilded Age Fashion explores couture houses and
society rituals among America's Gilded Age elite.
Elizabeth L. Block

AUCTIONS

Back in the Saddle: Recent auction sales highlight the
artifacts, artworks, and everyday objects that helped
shape—and mythologize—the American West.

WORDPLAY

"One Today" by Richard Blanco
Poetry editor Sean Nevins
The American Landscape by Will Nediger
Edited by Rick Sharp

May/June 2026 Crossword Solution

FLEA BITE

Found Photography: An unexpected flea market discovery uncovered a hidden world of friendship, self-expression, and the enduring emotional power of vernacular photography.
Christine Hope Hildebrand

MITCH'S MUSINGS

Everyday Gallé: A reflection on Émile Gallé's lesser-known ceramics, a cherished Saint Clément fruit basket, and the enduring beauty of objects meant to be used, not merely admired.
Mitchell Owens

Features



Folk Nation

At the American Folk Art Museum, objects from across centuries reveal how patriotism, memory, family, faith, and dissent are crafted, contested, and carried.
Emelie Gevalt and Caroline Culp

Image

Dressing the Revolution

A look back at how clothing shaped daily life and signaled allegiance in an America on the brink of upheaval.

Lauren D. Whitley

Image

Liberty in the Heart of America

How an unprecedented assemblage of more than two hundred rare, original American founding documents, objects, and artworks came together in an exhibition guest curated by Ken Burns.

Bill Conger

Image

Common Threads

America 250 at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art reframes national identity through material culture and shared histories.

Larissa Randall

Image

Lines on the Land

Marking the nation's 250th anniversary, the Huntington reimagines American material culture through the lenses of conflict and change.

Dennis Carr

Image

Public Personas

A new exhibition at the American Folk Art Museum reframes "self-taught artists" as deliberate architects of identity and artistic legacy.

Valérie Rousseau and Suzie Oppenheimer

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