

## Strut: The Peacock and Beauty in Art

Strutting in its sapphire-blue and emerald-green feathers, the peacock symbolizes all things vain and beautiful in centuries of painting, sculpture, in books and myth, and on clothes that swirl and shine like the iridescent bird itself. The peacock's emblazoned train of feathers spread "like the heavens strewed with stars" intrigued artists East and West, who made the peacock a motif for designs on canvas and objets for the home.



NSTG (attributed)  
Art Nouveau *Peacock Feather Tiles*.  
Germany, early 20th century  
Glazed ceramic with cuerca  
deca decoration. Courtesy of  
Skinner Auctioneers, Boston

Rikki Morley Saunders,  
artist represented in *Strut:  
Peacock and Beauty in Art*,  
sculpts Alexander, a peacock  
who resides close to her  
studio.

The Hudson River Museum has organized *Strut: The Peacock and Beauty in Art*, the first survey of the peacock portrayed in over 100 paintings, photographs, and decorative arts in the United States, England, and France from the 19th-century to today. On view from October 11 until January 18, the exhibition is accompanied by a catalog co-published by the Museum and Fordham University Press. Both a guide to the exhibition and a book in its own right with lively essays and reflections by the artists themselves, it is a fully illustrated exploration of the phenomenon of the peacock, darling of designers and painters.

The exhibition and the accompanying catalog have been made possible by a generous grant from the Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. Horowitz Foundation for the Arts, Inc. The exhibition catalog is co-published by the Hudson River Museum and Fordham University Press.

