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A Dream and a Chisel: Louisiana Sculptor Angela Gregory in Paris: 1925-1928

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Andrew Low House. Two excellent quality pictures show designs for the Andrew Low House.

The house was the residence of Andrew Low who moved from Scotland to Savannah in 1829 and became wealthy because of cotton and textiles. The Andrew Low House came into existence in 1845. William Low inherited the house and gave it to his wife Juliette “Daisy” Gordon. Daisy founded the United States Girl Scouts. The Girl Scouts convened in the Andrew Low House Carriage House. The State of Georgia National Society of the Colonial Dames of America is the owner of the Andrew Low House since 1928. The Andrew Low House allows tourists daily for a fee. Intriguingly, the front doors appear like doors to Rome’s Temple of Romulus AD 309. Two front columns are like columns from an Athens Tower of the Winds created purportedly around 50 and 100 BC. Lovely iron balconies the shade of green are at the entry. Two impressive statues of lions are on both sides of the outdoor stairs to the splendid front door.

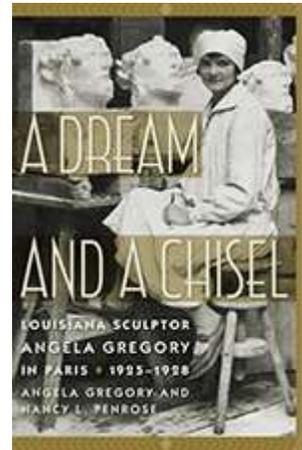
Pre-Civil War antiques are in the house. Fascinatingly, amethyst gems of Marie Louise Duchess of Parma a wife to Napoleon are there. Delightfully, the Brussels rugs in the parlors are Devonshire and similar to some in Metropolitan Museum of Art. Gorgeous bright vivid paintings of the family adorn the mansion. Beautiful Brussels Lorenzo rugs are in the dining room and library. The beautiful dining room table exhibits lovely Dihl et Guerhard china from the dawn of the 1800s.. The parlor has beautiful red and gold silk sofas of Boston from the mid nineteenth century. An 1810 John Broadwood & Sons England rosewood pianoforte is enchanting. Remarkably, a New York A & W Geib pianoforte from the commencement of the 1800s in the second parlor is playable. The lovely ceilings in the parlors display two gorgeous crystal chandeliers. Other decorations include a desk for inscribing composed of rosewood, a mahogany bed from Jamaica, Argand Lamps, Parian ware busts and greyhounds, Chinese porcelain vases, a unique stand for washing, a bathtub of copper, a mahogany wardrobe, a transom, two gilded pier mirrors, and a gold and white satin settee of Sheraton design.

The masterpiece in great detail narrates the history of the occupants of the Andrew Low House. What’s more, beautiful pictures enhance the lively description of the bright and beautiful landscape. The house has a dry moat. Two well-known visitors were Robert E. Lee and the writer William Makepeace Thackeray.

The recommendation for audience are researchers and individuals interested in beautiful residences and their histories. This work is a must for academic and public libraries. It is an excellent and entertaining story of the Andrew Low House and any interested tourists to Savannah will be much more knowledgeable of the Andrew Low House open for visiting.

Melinda F. Matthews
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A Dream and a Chisel: Louisiana Sculptor Angela Gregory in Paris: 1925-1928. Angela Gregory and Nancy L. Penrose. Columbia: The University of South Carolina Press, 2019. ISBN 978-1-61117-977-4 (Hard). \$39.99. 248 p.



This collection of interviews and significant research documents surrounding the life of Angela Gregory provides the reader an opportunity to see and hear a southern woman artist reveal her life as she lived it. We are able to “see a rarely opened window into southern society before, during and after the American Civil War and into the twentieth century” (Preface). Of most interest to me is the revelations of life in New Orleans and the French-dominated culture that surrounded Angela Gregory.

The reader will find it fascinating to follow Angela as she struggles with her artistic enthusiasms and her choices to follow the opportunities she finds to become a sculptor or a painter—both of which she has amazing talents and family support that can lead to accomplishments. Especially of interest is the story that is woven of Angela’s childhood, teenaged years, travels to France, internships, fellowships and study under a world famous sculptor.

The interviews that Angela provides to Nancy Penrose are vivid and entrancing. Compliments to both of them for this entrancing and delightful book. If you love art, French culture, and family stories, you will love getting to know Angela Gregory.

Recommended for public and academic libraries. Many illustrations throughout and a section of Notes, a Bibliography and an Index for research. Also a good listing of all of Angela’s sculptures. Also highly recommended for art libraries.

Carol Walker Jordan
Librarian and Consultant