

Quarterly newsletter of the Foundation
and the activities at the Museum

BRUGES BINCHE LACE COLLECTION



In This Issue

A new, unique collection

The Bruges Lace Centre's unique collection is a first for a museum in the U.S.

Beginner lace classes

A new set of sessions starts on January 28 and end on April 1

Guided tours

Let a docent take you through the museum on a 1 or 2-hour tour

Holiday decorations

Our artistic director, Diane Makgill, has created several seasonal window displays

Upcoming events

The museum is a popular venue during First Fridays in downtown Raleigh

A new unique collection

By Hugo Uyttenhove - Director

The museum's relationship with the Lace Centre in Bruges, Belgium, has resulted in a temporary loan of their best collection of Binche Lace. This exquisite type of lace got its name from a town in Belgium named Binche. Known as the seat of government in the Middle Ages under Mary of Burgundy, the town's lace-making was deemed essential by royal decree. It was so fashionable across the border in France at the end of the 18th century that even **Victor Hugo** referred to this type of lace in *Les Miserables* when he described Colette's wedding dress. Unfortunately, this was followed by a catastrophic decline in production in the 19th and 20th centuries due to scarcity of goods, wars and changing fashion. In the 1950s, nuns in a Bruges convent rediscovered the Binche lace style, learned the technique, and created this incredibly complex style with the finest cotton or silk threads. The collection includes three works by Danny Olivier, who plies his craft at the Lace Centre. The significant ecru-colored lace works made with flax threads are unique.

This special collection is on display until March 28, 2025.

Beginning lace session

Scheduled



Exciting news! Beginning lace classes are set to start on January 28th and run through April 1st. Over ten engaging classes, each lasting two hours, you will have the opportunity to dive into the art of making beautiful bobbin lace. The museum offers all the necessary materials so you can focus on learning without any hassle

Join us to discover how to prepare your bobbins, master the placement of pins, twist and cross the threads with the bobbins, and finish a lace piece to be proud of. A written instruction book will be provided for students who want to work on the lace piece between classes.

Click [here](#) to check the museum website for the registration and payment details to participate in this first ten-class session. Your instructor will contact you with further information before the first class.

Guided tours

Docents are available to give tours of the museum. The tour includes a short history of lacemaking and an explanation of the many types of lace and their history. This leads to a more detailed inspection of various displayed examples throughout the museum. During a tour, participants learn about the techniques used to create this form of textile art, are invited to handle bobbins and learn more about the pillows on display.

A summary of any special collections on display will be provided. During and after opening hours, there are one-hour and two-hour tours for several group sizes. To learn more about our guided tours, visit the museum website [here](#), and you can contact our guided tour manager.

For a quick online tour, click below

[The Raleigh Lace Museum \(youtube.com\)](#)

Holiday decorations

If you have walked by the museum lately, you may have seen our festive decorations in the many windows. Diane Makgill has created a festive set of displays featuring new dresses and an old English baby chair and doll on loan from Rose LaCasse. The doll features a beautiful baptismal dress made of lace. Our Christmas tree is beautifully decorated and is featured for another two weeks as a central point in the museum space.

The Museum is closed from December 24th 2024 through January 2nd 2025.

Upcoming events

First Fridays are a great opportunity to visit downtown Raleigh and a stop at the Raleigh Lace Museum. Admission is free from 6 to 9 p.m. We will serve wine from our service area for a small donation. Remember that the museum is a Sip-n-Stroll friendly location but only designated cups may be taken out of the museum.

Please note the upcoming dates:

Friday, January 3, 2025: If you have not seen the new collection, perhaps this is a great opportunity to see the Binche Lace.

Friday, February 7, 2025: We will have several heart-shaped pendants with hand-made lace for sale, just in time for Valentine's Day!

Also, **every third Tuesday**, Lacemakers work inside the museum, providing an exciting way to see how bobbin lace is made. Regular entrance fees apply.

