



The Historic House Trust's Contemporary Art Partnerships
with the Morris-Jumel Mansion Presents

The Loves of
Aaron Burr
Portraits in Corsetry & Binding
Exhibition by Camilla Huey

May – September 2013

Morris-Jumel Mansion
65 Jumel Terrace New York City

Esther Burr • Margaret Moncrieffe • Theodosia Burr • Mary Emmons
Leonora Sansay • Theodosia Burr Alston • Jane McManus Cazneau • Madam Jumel

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Couture Artist **Camilla Huey** has produced gowns and corsets for celebrities such as Oprah, Janet Jackson and Katy Perry in her famed garment district atelier, The **House of Execution**, a magical studio where fashion and history mingle. After almost ten years of extensive research, she began creating corsets to personify eight fascinating but nearly forgotten women writers of the 18th and 19th centuries. Camilla has been invited to exhibit these exquisitely constructed pieces in the period rooms of the historic and haunted **Morris-Jumel Mansion**, Manhattan's oldest residence, which also serves as the backdrop for many of the women's eventful lives, truly fulfilling the project's vision.

DESCRIPTION

The Loves of Aaron Burr: Portraits in Corsetry and Binding resurrects the lives of eight women of letters involved in the adventures of Aaron Burr, Vice President to Thomas Jefferson and the assassin of Alexander Hamilton. Appropriately staged at the **Morris-Jumel Mansion**, where Burr spent a brief, though ill-fated, marriage to Madame Jumel. The exhibition tells the compelling stories of these women through the craft of bookbinding and the art of couture corsets.

Each "portrait" is comprised of a period appropriate corset bound around hand transcribed letters and ephemera, symbolizing each woman's "body of work" in sheer volume. Installed throughout the period rooms of the mansion, the viewer as voyeur is invited to peer indiscreetly into the private lives of each woman. An interactive timeline, installed in the boudoir of Madam Jumel, gives social and historical context to the theatre of these women's lives and history.

During the ten years of research Camilla travelled throughout the archives of New York, Louisiana and France to uncover these histories. This is a truly unique experience to view an exhibition realized in the very space and the original setting of the events that inspire the project.

FEATURED WOMEN

- * **Esther Burr** (1732-1758), Aaron Burr's mother, silk and velvet corset
- * **Margaret Moncrieffe** (1763-?) Aaron Burr's first love, damask corset cradling a first edition of her book, *The Memoirs of Mrs. Coughlan*
- * **Theodosia Burr** (1746-1794), first wife of Aaron Burr, corset encased in isinglass
- * **Mary Emmons** (1760-1835), consort of Aaron Burr, leather and quill corset
- * **Leonora Sansay** (1773-?) confidant and mistress, leather caned corset with signatures of onion skin paper, steel and mirrored armature
- * **Theodosia Burr Alston** (1783-1813), daughter of Aaron Burr, silk corset, steel boned with signatures of 100% cotton rag paper stitched in silk
- * **Jane McManus Cazneau** (1807-1878) American journalist and lobbyist, accused as correspondent in Jumel V. Burr divorce
- * **Eliza Jumel** (1775-1865), second wife of Aaron Burr, 10-year-old revolutionary era corset bound within an illuminated boned bodice.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Camilla Huey is an artist, couturier and independent historian living and working in New York City. Her most recent works include several contributions to the Bard Graduate Center Scholarship Auction for *Hats: An Anthropology* by Stephen Jones, and collaboration with artist, Dawn DeDeaux in the Prospect.2 installation of the *Goddess Fortuna*. As director of the **House of Execution**, she has realized couture for private clients, celebrities and luxury brands. In addition, she has engineered costumes for theatre, opera, ballet, print, advertising, television and film. Her work was recently profiled in *The New York Times*.

Visit www.houseofexecution.com

MORRIS-JUMEL MANSION

Manhattan's oldest residence, built in 1765 as a summer retreat by British Colonel Roger Morris for his wife, Mary Philipse. The original estate reached from the Harlem River to the Hudson, with commanding views of the New York Harbor, the New Jersey Palisades, and Westchester. During the Revolutionary War the house served as headquarters for General George Washington drawn by the house's superior military vantage point.

In 1810 the estate was purchased by French wine merchant and importer Stephen Jumel and his wife Eliza. Remarkably the Jumel's are noted as having restored the house to its original grandeur, throwing a party to which all of New York Society was invited to feast on oysters and drink the superb offerings of M. Jumel's cellar, including excellent champagnes as noted in the diary of Mayor Philip Hone. The Mansion is a National Historic Landmark and a New York City Landmark.

The house, now a museum, open to the public Wednesday through Sunday 10 am – 4 pm. The museum is located between 160th and 162nd Streets east of St. Nicolas Avenue in historic Harlem Heights, New York City. Visit www.morrisjumel.org

HISTORIC HOUSE TRUST OF NEW YORK CITY

Historic House Trust is a not-for-profit organization operating in tandem with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Their mission is to provide essential support for the houses of architectural and cultural significance, spanning 350 years of New York City life. These treasures reside within the parks and are open to the public.

Visit www.historichousetrust.org



Photo by Seth Tillet



Old Fashion Romance A Couturier's Tale

By Ashley Davidson
April, 2012

Camilla Huey is the mistress of the House of Execution, one of New York City's few remaining couture houses. She inherited a reverence for history and a knowing respect for the art of gossip long before her training began as an artist of fashion. A life threaded with stories shared and created while dressing the last of the Great Dames, theater starlets and socialites who have passed through Manhattan on their way to infamy.

Camilla has the ability to tell a story through exquisitely constructed fashion, thoroughly blurring whatever lines may exist between art, invention and couture. Simply put, she brings dreams to life in physical form. She is currently working on a new story apart from the red carpet and Broadway stage, which will be realized later this year in her first solo exhibition. The installation is comprised of sculptural corsets, each representing one of six remarkable women who share in common one of the most entertaining scoundrels in all of New York, Aaron Burr.



Photo by Lee Clower

The New York Times

Camilla Huey Trades on Her Work, Not Her Name

By Christopher Petkanas
April 11, 2012

These days, red-carpet cynosures name-check designers. But one person remains uncited: Camilla Huey. Ms. Huey helps realize other designers' visions (as well as her own) with her company House of Execution. Among Ms. Huey's more-sensational creations was the black latex bodysuit, complete with nipple ring, that Janet Jackson scowled around in during her "Velvet Rope" period. Seventh Avenue regularly relies on Ms. Huey when the stars need their hands held. "Even when there's a designer involved I'm still finding creative solutions." Ms. Huey's own secret weapon when corralling personalities like Adele, Aretha and Oprah, is an old-fashioned pitilessly boned corset built-into the garment.



The Morris-Jumel Mansion
& The Historic House Trust of New York City

Cordially invite you to

The Loves of Aaron Burr:

Portraits in Corsetry & Binding

An exhibition by Camilla Huey

Opening Reception

May 2nd, 2013 6:00 – 9:00pm

Introduction and Remarks 7:00pm

The Morris-Jumel Mansion

65 Jumel Terrace, New York 10032

RSVP: marketing@morrisjumel.org

For more information, call The Morris-Jumel Mansion

(212) 923-8008 or visit www.houseofexecution.com

May 3rd – September 12th, 2013



www.historichousetrust.org www.morrisjumel.org