



About the Author

ROBERTA A. MAYER joined the faculty of the Department of the Arts at Bucks County Community College in 2002 as an art historian. She was immediately intrigued by the architecture, gardens, and sculpture that were once the lavish Newtown estate of George and Stella Elkins Tyler, later to become part of Bucks County Community College. The large bronzes, in particular, piqued her curiosity, and her subsequent research yielded this fascinating history of the life and artistic accomplishments of Stella Elkins Tyler.

Dr. Mayer completed her Ph.D. at the University of Delaware in 2000 with a specialty in American Art History. Her dissertation research focused on the presentation and perception of East Indian craft traditions in the Gilded Age by examining the patronage of Lockwood de Forest, an early business partner of Louis Comfort Tiffany. She has published articles on various aspects of the decorative arts in *Winterthur Portfolio, 19th Century*, and *Studies in the Decorative Arts*. Most recently, she contributed an essay to *Cincinnati Art-Carved Furniture and Interiors* (2003), a major catalogue published by the Cincinnati Art Museum.

At present, she serves on the Board of Directors of the Victorian Society in America and the Drumthwacket Foundation. She has been the recipient of several prestigious awards, including a Lois F. Mc Neil Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Winterthur Museum and the 2001 Robert C. Smith Award from the Decorative Arts Society.

About the Director of Exhibitions

FRAN ORLANDO began her career as fine art photographer. She established her own business in Philadelphia where she lived and worked for several years before moving to Bucks County and becoming Director of Exhibitions and Artmobile at Bucks County Community College, a position she has held for eighteen years. Among the many exhibitions that she has curated, "Patriotism, Propaganda, and the Art of War" focused on the College's collection of World War I posters which were originally owned by George F. Tyler. She has always been captivated by Stella Elkins Tyler's sculpture and long hoped to showcase her works with an exhibition.



Ms. Orlando received her B.A. from the University of Delaware and her M.A. from the Philadelphia College of Art (now University of the Arts). Her previous research projects focused on the work of two nineteenth-century photographers—Clarence H. White, for an exhibition she installed at the Delaware Art Museum, and George Bacon Wood, for the Library Company of Philadelphia. She has lectured on photography exhibitions at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and has taught at the University of the Arts and Bucks County Community College. Over the years, she has designed and installed exhibitions for the James A. Michener Art Museum and the Woodturning Center of Philadelphia.

She currently serves as vice-president on the Bucks County Intermediate Unit Arts Education Trust Board and on the Committee to Form the Arts and Culture Council of Bucks County. She was a recipient of a New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowship for her photographic work.

