



## HIGHFIELD HALL

& Gardens

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Highfield Hall & Gardens to introduce *Hats by Elsie: A Milliner's Treasure* April 7, 2021 – May 31, 2021

(Falmouth, Massachusetts): Highfield Hall & Gardens is pleased to announce *Hats by Elsie*, an artful display featuring millinery tools, materials, and accessories from a New Bedford milliner's business archive. Shown throughout the interior of Highfield Hall, this exhibition will be a first-time look into the work and business of Elsie Rebello, a creative entrepreneur, mother, and teacher who at the age of 92, has never stopped making hats. A perfect welcome to spring, the exhibition is curated by Rita Pacheco, who has been the designer of Highfield Hall & Gardens' Holidays at Highfield for three years. Rita's installation design combines her inventive expression while presenting archival material sensitive to its historical value and blending theatrics so visitors can imagine visiting a milliner's salon in the past.

After completing her first course in millinery in 1961, Elsie Rebello set about opening a salon. After declaring that she wanted to master the craft of millinery while raising a family, she opened her business "Hats by Elsie" in the front parlor of her home in New Bedford in 1963. Knowledgeable in sourcing materials, Elsie expanding her clientele, marketing her offerings while furthering her education and training in millinery art, thereby positioning herself at the center of boutique hat making in the area. When the fashion for elaborate hats declined in the later 1960s, she seamlessly adapted her skills to modern custom wedding and special event hats and veils.

This rare intact archive offers glimpses of the exquisite materials, technical prowess of a mistress of the craft, evidence of prolific production and insight into the details of running a custom works business. Coupled with other art exhibits on view at Highfield Hall this spring, *Hats by Elsie* will offer hands-on opportunities for workshops, tours, lectures, and private parties. Please call Highfield Hall & Gardens to book your private event today.

#### *Hats by Elsie*

Opens to visitors Wednesday April 7, 2021 through Monday May 31, 2021

Current Gallery Hours

Wednesday – Friday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

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### **About Highfield Hall & Gardens**

The house is a rare surviving example of transitional Stick Style architecture, containing beautiful gardens located in the heart of Falmouth, Massachusetts. It is a unique combination of a historic house, expansive gardens and trails, and a vibrant cultural center. Built in 1878 as the summer home for Boston's Beebe family, the house sits on 5.5 pristine acres surrounded by nearly 400 acres of conservation land and public walking trails. Highfield Hall & Gardens is not your typical historic estate. It is an example of a historic building saved by grassroots community organizing. An effort of tenacity and vision that continues as new research on the structure and its story of the people who lived here add to the building's significance. It offers world-class music, international art exhibitions, culinary classes, family programs, and year-round special events.

### **Mission**

Highfield Hall & Gardens' mission is to honor the beauty and historic significance of the house and grounds by providing high-quality artistic, cultural, and educational programs for the enrichment of our community and visitors of all ages.

### **Gallery Hours:**

Highfield Hall will follow health safety protocols by restricting the number of people in the gallery at one time.

Visit: [www.highfieldhallandgardens.org](http://www.highfieldhallandgardens.org)