LOOK CLOSER: Self-Guided Itinerary

Follow this itinerary to find small treasures and treats in The Ringling collection found only by the most careful observers.

TIBBALS LEARNING CENTER

DOLLY JACOBS  Known as a “Star of the Center Ring” the talented aerialist Dolly Jacobs can be seen soaring above the crowd in William Woodward’s, The Greatest Show on Earth mural. You’ll find Dolly gracefully dangling from the Roman Rings, which was her signature act.

WHY IS JOHN RINGLING ON THE LOT OF THE HOWARD BROS. CIRCUS MODEL?  The youngest of the five founding brothers can be seen receiving mail in the backyard of the Circus Model. When asked Howard Tibbals, the model’s creator, smiles and says that John Ringling is checking out the competition.

BAYFRONT GARDENS

MABLE RINGLING’S ROSE  Mable Ringling’s rose garden was the first landscaping project undertaken on the property and Mable’s bedroom overlooks her beloved roses. As you stroll through the garden keep an eye out for the Mable Ringling Rose, a hybrid developed by a Museum staff member, which is fiery red with a hint of yellow.

CA’ D’ZAN

ANNUNCIATOR  (Requires a separate ticket)  Harkening back to the era of great English country estates, the Ca’ d’Zan features a call box system called an annunciator that residents and guests could use to summon the staff. Using the modern technology of electricity, the brass annunciator in the kitchen could receive signals from call buttons located in many of the rooms.

SPICE JARS  (Requires a separate ticket)  Sophie Collins was the Ringlings’ Alsatian cook. She prepared the German meals that John Ringling, himself the son of German immigrants, recognized from his childhood. She chose the pale green paint for the walls in an effort to make the kitchen seem cooler. Look for the ceramic spice jars that are labeled in Sophie’s native German.

MUSEUM OF ART

BUGS IN STILL LIFE WITH PARROTS BY JAN DAVIDSZ. DE HEEM  This sumptuous still life abounds with exotic animals, imported delicacies and precious vessels that suggest the opulence of the 17th century Netherlands. As our eyes dart around this picture it is easy to get lost in the varied colors and textures. Look closely to spot some of the finer details, including two hungry caterpillars that have invaded the table.