

Drawn to Excellence

Renaissance to Romantic Drawings
from a Private Collection

Northampton, MA – October 1, 2012: Launching a year of special exhibitions that will focus on the theme of collecting, Smith College Museum of Art (SCMA) is pleased to announce the special exhibition, **DRAWN TO EXCELLENCE Renaissance to Romantic Drawings from a Private Collection**, featuring 16th- to early 19th-century Italian and French masterworks. The exhibition will remain on view through Sunday, January 6, 2013.

Offering a rare opportunity to see more than 80 artworks from the distinguished collection of an anonymous Smith College alumna, **DRAWN TO EXCELLENCE Renaissance to Romantic Drawings from a Private Collection** showcases the important use of drawing by some of the most accomplished European master draftsmen from the Renaissance through the Romantic period.

An ardent supporter of museums in both the United States and abroad, the collector has built her exemplary collection over a 16-year period. Her devotion to the study of drawings and her willingness to lend these works to public institutions has significantly expanded knowledge of these treasured works of art.

DRAWN TO EXCELLENCE includes only a portion of the collector's private holdings, emphasizing the strength rather than breadth of her collection. This collection was first featured in the 2007 exhibition **Private Treasures: Four Centuries of Master Drawings**, co-organized by the Pierpont Morgan Library & Museum, New York, NY and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

The exhibition provides a unique chance to study and compare outstanding examples of draftsmanship as well as a range of styles and uses of drawings by renowned artists such as Federico Barocci, Fra Bartolommeo, Francois Boucher, Agnolo Bronzino, Giovanni Benedetto Castiglione, Eugène Delacroix, Jean-Honoré Fragonard, Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, Claude Lorrain, Hubert Robert, Salvator Rosa, Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, and Antoine Watteau, among others. Visitors will see examples of first sketches, figures studies, compositional drawings, portraits, landscapes and more, including ten double-sided sheets in which both sides are visible.

In conjunction with **DRAWN TO EXCELLENCE**, SCMA has developed a full roster of programs. The first program was a free two-day symposium entitled "Collecting Drawings: A Public & Private Affair," held on September 28-29, 2012. For all related subsequent programs and registration, visit <http://www.smith.edu/artmuseum/On-View/Drawn-to-Excellence>. Additional programming will include free Second Friday (October 12), free Family Day (November 3), the Smith College Kennedy Lecture Series (October 12 and 23; open to all), and a Members' program in December.

Suzanne Folds McCullagh, Smith class of 1973, and the fall 2012 Ruth and Clarence Kennedy Professor in Renaissance Studies at Smith College, will teach a course for Smith students entitled "French and Italian Drawings: Renaissance through Romanticism." The course will culminate in a collaborative installation of prints from the permanent collection of SCMA, organized by students in Dr. McCullagh's class. This installation—an offshoot of **DRAWN TO EXCELLENCE**, will be on view at SCMA October 12–December 16, 2012.

On October 12, Dr. McCullagh will present a free public lecture entitled, "Drawn to Excellence: A Secret Passion of Public Import" as part of SCMA's free monthly Second Friday series (see website listed above for details). Dr. McCullagh serves as the Anne Vogt Fuller and Marion Titus Searle Chair and Curator, Department of Prints and Drawings, Art Institute of Chicago.

Aprile Gallant, SCMA's curator of prints, drawings, and photographs, organized **DRAWN TO EXCELLENCE**. In addition, Ms. Gallant coordinated and co-authored the accompanying exhibition catalogue. (The full-color, softcover, 80-page catalogue is available for purchase at the [SCMA Museum Shop](#), in person or online.)

SCMA is one of two museums and the sole New England venue that will host **DRAWN TO EXCELLENCE**. Following its showing at Smith, the exhibition will travel to the Herbert F. Johnson Museum, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY where it will be on view January 26–April 21, 2013.

Developed by SCMA, **DRAWN TO EXCELLENCE** is supported by the Edith Stenhouse Bingham, Smith class of 1955, Art Museum Fund, The Louise Walker Blaney, Smith class of 1939, Fund for Exhibitions, the Charlotte Frank Rabb, Smith class of 1935, Fund, the Emily Hall Tremaine Fund through the initiative of Dorothy Tremaine Hildt, Smith class of 1949, the Publications and Research Fund of SCMA, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a State Agency.

For Museum hours, amenities, fees, exhibitions, events, and more, visit: www.smith.edu/artmuseum.

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