

The Art of Disegno: Italian Prints and Drawings from the Georgia Museum of Art

ATHENS, GA — *The Art of Disegno: Italian Prints and Drawings from the Georgia Museum of Art* will be on view at the Snite Museum of Art at the University of Notre Dame from January 11 to March 15, 2009. Organized by the Georgia Museum of Art, the exhibition features 53 works on paper produced in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

These prints and drawings from the Georgia Museum of Art and the Giuliano Ceseri Collection provide rare insight into the training, working habits and creative process of artists. For Italian artists of this era, the art of drawing was regarded as an intellectual as well as a practical activity, and the images found in this exhibition represent examples of the most fertile and inspired artistic creations found on paper during this period

“Beginning in the 14th century and increasing in the following centuries, as paper became more widely available, drawings became critical tools of the design process for artists,” said Babette Bohn, professor of art history at Texas Christian University.

Drawings also enjoyed a close relationship with prints during this period. For example, Giovanni Battista Piranesi’s prints reveal a fantastical and visionary imagination. His works create an aura of mystery, not only because of the dramatic chiaroscuro, but also because of disappearing staircases, leaning ladders to nowhere and architectural elements that appear to have no real function.

“Prints enabled artists to replicate the designs created in drawings through a technology that provided the possibility of creating multiple works of art and facilitated the spread of the artists’ reputation around the world,” said Bohn.

The exhibition includes prints by some of the finest Italian printmakers, such as Parmigianino and Marcantonio Raimondi, and later examples by major figures such as Pietro Testa and Giovanni Benedetto Castiglione.

Guest curators for this exhibition are Babette Bohn, professor of art history at Texas Christian University, and Robert Randolph Coleman, associate professor of art history at the University of Notre Dame. The in-house coordinator is Giancarlo

Fiorenza, former Pierre Daura Curator of European Art at the Georgia Museum of Art.

The exhibition is accompanied by a full-color, hardback exhibition catalogue, with an introduction by Fiorenza and catalogue by Bohn and Coleman. This program is supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and through appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. Individuals, foundations and corporations provide additional support through their gifts to the University of Georgia Foundation.

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