

12 October 2009

Recent Acquisitions of Drawings and Prints

20 October 2009 – 24 January 2010

This autumn, the Fitzwilliam Museum showcases drawings and prints that have recently enriched the Fitzwilliam's world-class collections, offering an opportunity to see important works going on display for the first time.

Recent Acquisitions of Drawings and Prints (opens 20 October) brings together over thirty of these recent acquisitions, presenting a choice selection that spans six centuries. Highlights include:

- A diverse group of Italian Renaissance drawings of great beauty, including an elegant study of arms and hands attributed to Polidoro da Caravaggio. Also on display is a working drawing for a design for an embroidered hood of a cope (cape) by Palma Giovane, depicting a scene from Revelation – a highly rare surviving example of its kind, as most drawings with this function were destroyed in the process of producing the embroidery.
- *Laura Tarsi* (1740–41), Jean-Étienne Liotard's delicate miniature of a 'Grecian Lady' painted onto ivory. Liotard's time working in Constantinople – as well as his penchant for Ottoman-style dress – earned him the name 'the Turkish Painter', and this image reflects the desire of many of his sitters to be depicted in similarly exotic costume.
- Proofs of aquatints by Goya and Picasso, adding to the Museum's fine collection of prints by these artists. Goya's *Sera lo Mismo* ('It Will Be The Same', c.1810), a highly rare working proof from his powerful *Disasters of War* series, shows one of the atrocities suffered by the Spanish people as witnessed by the artist, while Picasso's *Blind Minotaur Guided by Marie-Thérèse in a Starry Night* (1934–5) is perhaps the most spectacular print from his celebrated Vollard Suite, in which the mythical half-man/half-bull embodies elements of Picasso's own relationship with his mistress Marie-Thérèse Walter.
- *Garden Under Snow* (1885), a rare design for a fan by Gauguin painted onto fine linen. Although Gauguin is better known for his paintings, he – like many of the Impressionist painters – was intrigued by the compositional challenge presented by the fan-shaped format, and produced over thirty fan designs.
- *Dancers in the Wings* (1900–05), a charcoal and pastel drawing by Degas attesting to the artist's enduring fascination with the movements and poses of dancers. Degas repeatedly studied and revised these types of figures, exploring the formal potential of a single pose often over many years, as this particular work illustrates.



Jean-Étienne Liotard, *Laura Tarsi* (1740–41)



Edgar Degas, *Dancers in the Wings* (1900–05)

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Also featuring drawings and prints by artists as diverse as Guercino, Baselitz, Modigliani, Frank Auerbach and Howard Hodgkin, *Recent Acquisitions* illustrates the various ways that the Museum's collections are enriched through individual acts of generosity and funding bodies, sustaining the Fitzwilliam's core mission to build and develop the collections for future generations.

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Details for publication:

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20 October 2009 - 24 January 2010

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RB

OPEN: Tuesday - Saturday: 10.00 - 17.00
Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 - 17.00

ADMISSION FREE

Further information and images from:

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Notes for Editors The Fitzwilliam Museum

The Fitzwilliam Museum houses the University of Cambridge's art collection and is a public museum and art gallery with an international reputation. More than half a million objects and works of art are held in five curatorial departments: Antiquities, Applied Arts, Coins and Medals, Manuscripts and Printed Books and Paintings, Drawings and Prints.

The Fitzwilliam's treasures range from Ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman antiquities to the arts of the 21st century and include masterpieces by Titian, Canaletto, Stubbs, Constable, Monet, Renoir and Picasso, one of the world's foremost Rembrandt print collections, Handel music manuscripts and the famous Fitzwilliam Virginal Book, one of the most significant collections of Korean ceramics outside South-East Asia, medieval illuminated manuscripts and outstanding collections of pottery, porcelain and medieval coins.

The Fitzwilliam Museum welcomes over 300,000 visitors a year, offers a wide-ranging programme of temporary exhibitions and events, and has an award-winning Education Service. The Museum is open Tuesday - Saturday: 10.00 - 17.00, Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 - 17.00. Free admission. Website: www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

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