

02 June 2011

Summer / Autumn 2011 opening exhibitions at The Fitzwilliam Museum

Highlights

Splendour & Power: Imperial Treasures from Vienna 16 August 2011 - 8 January 2012

On display together for the first time in the UK, come prepared to be dazzled by this glittering exhibition of jewellery, vessels and small-scale masterpieces from the Imperial Treasury in Vienna. See Renaissance and Baroque treasures, all exquisitely fashioned from precious metals, gems, rare stones and other exotic materials.

Designed to demonstrate the incredible wealth and power of the Holy Roman Emperors, these remarkable creations were the pride of the Royal Family and were only shown to select visitors of noble birth. Don't miss this rare glimpse into the opulent world of the Hapsburg Dynasty.



Archer's ring made from nephrite
c. 1550-1600 (detail)
© Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna

Vermeer's Women: Secrets and Silence 5 October 2011 - 15 January 2012

Explore the intimacy and beauty of interior scenes by Johannes Vermeer and his seventeenth-century contemporaries.

At the heart of this visually stunning exhibition is Vermeer's extraordinary painting *The Lacemaker* (c.1669-70) - one of the Musée du Louvre's most famous works, rarely seen outside Paris and now on loan to the UK for the first time. The painting will be joined by a choice selection of other key works by Vermeer representing the pinnacle of his mature career, and up to thirty other masterpieces of genre painting from the Dutch 'Golden Age'.

Featuring works from museums and private collections in the UK, Europe and the USA - many of which have never been on public display in Britain - this Cambridge showing will be the only chance to see these masterworks brought together in one location.



Johannes Vermeer (1632-1675)
The Lacemaker (c.1669-70)
Musée du Louvre, Paris
© Réunion des Musées Nationaux/ Gérard Blot

Also on display



Redouté's school of botanical drawing in the Salle Buffon of the Jardin des Plantes
Julie Ribault, 1830 © The Fitzwilliam Museum

Flower Drawings: Redouté and his Pupils 19 July - 30 October 2011

The 'Raphael of flowers', Joseph-Pierre Redouté (1759-1840), internationally famous for his prints of roses and lilies, was the finest botanical draughtsman of his age. He worked for both Marie-Antoinette and the Empress Joséphine.

His school of botanical drawing in Paris had over 80 pupils, the majority of them women, several of whom became professional painters of flowers whose work is shown here.

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The exhibition celebrates the recent acquisition of Julie Ribault's watercolour, painted in 1830, of Redouté's school of botanical drawing in the Salle Buffon of the Jardin des Plantes, exhibited here for the first time since it was shown at the Paris Salon of 1831.

- ENDS / ... Notes for Editors -

For complete details of all ongoing exhibitions and events at the Fitzwilliam Museum, including *Italian Drawings: Highlights from the Collection* (to 10 July), *Italian Etchings: The Draughtsman's print* (to 29 August) and *Treasure Under Your Feet* (to 4 September) please see the full season listings online: http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/documents/20010511_MayAugListings.pdf

For full press releases of all major exhibitions visit: www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/news/pressroom/

Details for publication:

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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:

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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. www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

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