

4 August 2008

Picasso and Whistler at The Fitzwilliam Museum

Exhibitions of exceptional prints this autumn

A remarkable selection of prints by Pablo Picasso and James McNeill Whistler go on display in two exhibitions at The Fitzwilliam Museum this autumn.

'Palaces in the Night': The Urban Landscape in Whistler's Prints 23 September 2008 - 18 January 2009

This fascinating and atmospheric selection of cityscapes by the American artist James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) is the second exhibition of his etchings, drypoints and lithographs from the Fitzwilliam's collection, following last year's popular *The Gentle Art: Friends and Strangers in Whistler's Prints*.

'Palaces in the Night' is devoted to the city views for which Whistler is most celebrated as a printmaker, including his visions of Venice, Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam. Whistler's progression from crisp realism to atmospheric impressionism is beautifully demonstrated by his images of London and the Thames on display, which by the late 1870s approach the poetry of his Venice views, 'when the evening mist clothes the riverside with poetry... and the warehouses are palaces in the night.'

The exhibition also offers the opportunity to see the spectacular impression of *The Doorway* - one of two Venetian etchings recently acquired with the help of the Art Fund and the MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund, and on display here for the first time.

'Dreams and Lies': Picasso Prints from the Collection of The Fitzwilliam Museum 7 October 2008- 8 February 2009

The Fitzwilliam Museum presents this extraordinary portfolio of prints by Pablo Picasso, powerfully documenting the artist's political and personal reaction to the violence of the Spanish Civil War (1936-39). Published in 1937, the *Dreams and Lies of Franco* series was sold in aid of the Spanish Republican cause at the Paris World Fair, where Picasso's painting *Guernica* was first exhibited. These prints viciously lampoon General Franco, and convey the artist's anger at the violence and repression of the Nationalist regime.

Featuring the chance to view a rare set of progress proofs for one of the portfolio's prints, showing how Picasso added extra scenes in direct response to the Guernica bombing, this exhibition also complements the *Dreams and Lies* series with prints from earlier and later in Picasso's career, including his masterpiece, *La Minotaure*, and a group of proofs of the linocut *Danae*. These exceptional works on display reveal the essence of Picasso's own statement that 'Art is not truth. Art is a lie that makes us realise truth, at least the truth that is given us to understand.'

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Press Release | The Fitzwilliam Museum

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Details for publication:

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The Urban Landscape in Whistler's Prints
23 September – 18 January 2009

'Dreams and Lies'
Picasso Prints from the Collection of The Fitzwilliam Museum
7 October – 8 February 2009

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RB

OPEN: Tuesday – Saturday: 10.00 – 17.00
Sunday: 12.00 – 17.00
CLOSED: Mondays, 24–26 & 31 December and 1 January

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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