

Updated: 17 June 2011

New exhibition of Italian masterworks presents drawings by da Vinci, Michelangelo, Titian and more

Italian Drawings: Highlights from the Collection

8 March – 17 July 2011 (closing date extended)

An exhibition this spring at the Fitzwilliam Museum celebrates the very best of the Museum's collection of Italian drawings - most of which have never been displayed together until now.

The third in the Fitzwilliam's *Hidden Depths* series exploring aspects of the permanent collection, *Italian Drawings: Highlights from the Collection* (8 March – 17 July 2011) showcases treasures from some of the great Italian masters, including Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael, the Carracci, Guercino, Titian, Tintoretto and Veronese.



Correggio (Antonio Allegri),
The Nativity with the arrival of the shepherds
© The Fitzwilliam Museum

The exhibition brings together drawings from the 15th to the 20th centuries, from closely-observed portraits and intimate figurative studies to landscapes and biblical scenes. Other artists on display include Correggio and Parmigianino, Maratti, Passeri, Tadeo Zuccari, Barocci, Vasari, Polidoro da Caravaggio, Giulio Romano, Perino del Vaga, Salvator Rosa, Giambattista Tiepolo, Giandomenico Tiepolo, Francesco Guardi, Sabatelli and – with the most recent work presented – Modigliani. Also featured are artists' sketchbooks by Carlo Dolci – used whilst teaching his daughter Agnes to draw, and featuring her own work – and Stefano della Bella.

“This will be the largest and most significant display of Italian drawings from the Fitzwilliam's collection yet mounted at the Museum,” comments Dr Timothy Potts, Director of the Fitzwilliam. “Demonstrating a vitality and immediacy that is particular to the medium, this exhibition offers a rare opportunity to appreciate the extraordinary depth and quality of the Museum's Italian old master drawings, which fully rival that of our much-celebrated Italian paintings”

Italian Drawings: Highlights from the Collection marks the publication of a comprehensive new catalogue with almost 1400 colour illustrations, *Italian Drawings at the Fitzwilliam Museum* (Cambridge University Press) by David Scrase, the Fitzwilliam's Assistant Director of Collections and Keeper of Paintings, Drawings and Prints. The exhibition is accompanied by a selection of workshops for adults and children – see fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk for more details.

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Complementary exhibition: *Italian Etchings: The Draughtsman's Print*

22 February – 29 August 2011

This display brings together a selection of fine prints from the Museum's collection, presenting works by artists from the 16th to the 18th centuries including Parmigianino, Guido Reni, Castiglione, Salvator Rosa, Giambattista Tiepolo and Canaletto. The print technique of etching was developed in the sixteenth century, and gave artists the facility to make printing plates without years of specialist training or collaboration with a professional engraver. The artist could draw directly onto the plate as easily and effectively as drawing on paper, making this display of etchings an effective complement to the larger drawings exhibition.



Tiepolo, Giovanni Battista, *The satyr and his family* (1750-1760)
© The Fitzwilliam Museum

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Details for publication:

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8 March – 17 July 2011

Italian Etchings: The Draughtsman's Print

22 February – 29 August 2011

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RB
 OPEN: Tuesday – Saturday: 10.00 – 17.00
 Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 – 17.00
 Closed Good Friday and 29 April 2011

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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