

## Brueghel and his time

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### Landscape drawings from the Bruce Ingram bequest

10 May – 4 September 2016

Many of the greatest works of art entered the collection of the Fitzwilliam Museum as donations or bequests. As part of the Museum's bicentenary celebrations, an exhibition of over thirty rarely seen Dutch and Flemish landscape drawings from the bequest of Sir Bruce Ingram (1877-1963) will be on display.



Jan Brueghel the Elder, *A village in the mountains*  
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One of the most significant British collectors of the twentieth century, Sir Bruce Ingram was the editor of *The Illustrated London News* and Honorary Keeper of Drawings at the Fitzwilliam Museum. He amassed a renowned and impressive collection of drawings and paintings that reflect his passion for and knowledge of European art, especially Dutch and Flemish landscapes and seascapes.

Henrietta Ward, Assistant Keeper of Paintings, Drawings and Prints at the Fitzwilliam Museum said, 'the bequest of Sir Bruce Ingram is one of the Museum's finest, and with over one thousand drawings it provides many opportunities for research and exhibitions. The fragile nature of works on paper means they cannot be on permanent display as they are susceptible to light damage, so special, focused shows like this are an ideal way to provide access to this astonishing collection'.

The works selected for this exhibition focus on early landscape drawings, and include delicately painted views of villages and mountains by artists including Jan Brueghel the Elder (1568-1625), who was a member of the famous Brueghel dynasty of painters active in the Spanish Netherlands, now Belgium. Jan's father Pieter Bruegel the Elder (1525/30-69) was a pivotal figure in the development of landscape painting. He inspired his contemporaries to view the natural world around them as an independent subject and not just a setting for historical or religious narratives, as illustrated in the exhibition through highly detailed drawings by the Flemish artist Hans Bol (1534-93).

The exhibition includes one of the earliest known pure landscapes of the Flemish countryside by the so-called Master of the Small Landscapes, who was active in the Southern Netherlands around

1560. Otherwise, high viewpoints and mountainous terrain came to characterise the work of other Flemish artists such as Paul Bril (1554-1626), a Flemish émigré who moved permanently to Rome, becoming inspired by the Italian hills, art and architecture as captured in his pen and ink drawing of a landscape at sunset. Meanwhile, the otherworldly and fantastical views of the mountains by Joos de Momper (1564-1635), as seen by a number of drawings in the exhibition, were hugely popular amongst collectors.

From 1568 the mainly Protestant provinces in the north fought against Catholic Spanish rule. The war eventually ended in 1648 when the north became recognised as the independent Dutch Republic. During these decades of turmoil many Protestant artists in the south fled north in fear of religious persecution, taking the new subject of landscape painting with them. This in turn encouraged Dutch artists including Abraham Bloemaert (1566-1651), Esaias van de Velde (1587-1630) and Jan van Goyen (1596-1656) to sketch the country's lowlands, sand dunes, inland waterways and rustic cottages from life, with a newfound pride and focus.

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**For further information and images contact the Press Office:**

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#### **Notes to editors:**

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RB

FREE ADMISSION

OPEN: Tuesday - Saturday: 10.00 - 17.00

Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 - 17.00

CLOSED: 24-26 & 31 December, 1 January and Good Friday.

**Founded in 1816 the Fitzwilliam Museum** is the principal museum of the University of Cambridge and lead partner for the University of Cambridge Museums (UCM) Major Partner Museum programme, funded by The Arts Council. The Fitzwilliam's collections explore world history and art from antiquity to the present day. It houses over half a million objects from ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman artefacts, to medieval illuminated manuscripts, masterpiece paintings from the Renaissance to the 21st century, world class prints and drawings, and outstanding collections of coins, Asian arts, ceramics and other applied arts. The Fitzwilliam presents a wide ranging public programme of major exhibitions, events and education activities, and is an internationally recognised institute of learning, research and conservation. [www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk](http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk)

#### **Bicentenary Business Partners**

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**200 YEARS**