

Press Contacts

Patrick Milliman

212.590.0310, pmilliman@themorgan.org

Sandra Ho

212.590.0311, sho@themorgan.org

**THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM TO PRESENT
OLD MASTER DRAWINGS FROM THE COLLECTION
OF ARTS PATRON JOAN TAUB ADES**

*SHOW INCLUDES WORKS FROM ITALIAN, FRENCH, AND
NORTHERN EUROPEAN SCHOOLS*

The Age of Elegance: The Joan Taub Ades Collection Opens May 13, 2011

New York, NY, March 29, 2011—The fine and diverse collection of Italian, French, and Northern European old master drawings assembled by Joan Taub Ades is the subject of a new exhibition, opening May 13 at The Morgan Library & Museum. The show includes almost forty works dating from the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries, with a particularly rich concentration of drawings by eighteenth-century French artists. It will run through August 28.



François Boucher (1703–1770), *Reclining Nude with Outstretched Arm*. Black, white and wetted red chalk, with stumping, on buff paper. Joan Taub Ades Collection. Photography, Schechter Lee, 2009.

The exhibition provides visitors with the unique opportunity to see this appealing and highly personal collection. Mrs. Ades has, over the last decade, acquired old master drawings of superb quality and character. An esteemed and noted supporter of music, opera, and ballet in New York, she has promised her collection of drawings to the Morgan.

“The works in the collection of Joan Taub Ades reflect her passion for the old masters and her discerning eye.” said William M. Griswold, director of The Morgan Library &

Museum. “The drawings are beautiful in conception and refined in technique; their geographical range is broad, and their subject matter is diverse. We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Ades for the generous commitment of her collection to the Morgan.”

Among the highlights of the French school, which include work by artists such as François Boucher, Augustin de Saint-Aubin, and Jean-François Millet, is a spirited sheet by French Rococo artist Claude Gillot

depicting a *Rustic Dance*, a thoughtful portrayal in richly colored chalks of a *Sorrowful Woman* by Greuze, and a technically refined vignette of a couple expecting a child by Louis-Léopold Boilly. Four drawings by the prolific Boucher—including a lushly sensuous *Reclining Nude* and an intensely expressive *Head of St. John the Baptist*—display the wide range of his technical mastery and the celebrated grace of his forms.

The Prophet Isaiah by the seventeenth-century Italian Baroque artist Guercino is the earliest sheet in the exhibition. Additional works from the Italian school include Francesco Panini's precisely drawn and delicately colored view of the Vatican's Scala Regia, which exemplifies the eighteenth-century fascination with architectural documentation. Of a similar degree of finish and detail is a *Scene of Sacrifice* by Francesco Fontebasso, who is also represented by a study of nine sensitively observed male heads. An exquisite, early nineteenth-century work on vellum by Mauro Gandolfi illustrates a couple's intimate *Farewell*.



Jean-Baptiste Greuze (1725–1805), *Head of a Sorrowful Woman*. Black and wetted red chalk, with stumping and gray wash. Promised gift of Joan Taub Ades in honor of Charles E. Pierce, Jr. for his twenty years of service as Director of the Morgan Library & Museum. Photography by Anthony Troncale, 2009.

A small selection of works by artists from the Northern school focuses on the popular genre of still life, particularly flower studies. Drawings by Jan van Huysum, Barbara Regina Dietzsch, and an album by Johan-Konrad Fasi-Gessner are all devoted to examining the natural world. Also included is a sheet of informal portraits by Adolph Friedrich von Menzel, one of the most important figures in nineteenth-century German Realism.

The Age of Elegance: The Joan Taub Ades Collection is organized by the Department of Drawings and Prints at The Morgan Library & Museum.



The Morgan exhibition program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

The Morgan Library & Museum

The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today, more than a century after its founding in 1906, the Morgan serves as a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. In October 2010, the Morgan completed the first-ever restoration of its original McKim building, Pierpont Morgan's private library, and the core of the institution. In tandem with the 2006 expansion project by architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan now provides visitors unprecedented access to its world-renowned collections of drawings, literary and historical manuscripts,

musical scores, medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, printed books, and ancient Near Eastern seals and tablets.

General Information

The Morgan Library & Museum
225 Madison Avenue, at 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3405
212.685.0008
www.themorgan.org

Hours

Tuesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; extended Friday hours, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve.

Admission

\$15 for adults; \$10 for students, seniors (65 and over), and children (under 16); free to Members and children, 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.