

PRIVATE TREASURES: FOUR CENTURIES OF EUROPEAN MASTER DRAWINGS
AT THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM

****Press Preview: Wednesday, January 17, 2007, 9 a.m. until noon****

New York, NY, December 14, 2006—The public will have the rare opportunity to view an extraordinary selection of over ninety master drawings when the exhibition *Private Treasures: Four Centuries of European Master Drawings* is on view at The Morgan Library & Museum, January 18 through April 8, 2007. Drawn entirely from a private collection, the show spans the sixteenth through the twentieth centuries and includes works by Italian, French, British, Dutch, and German artists.



Agnolo Bronzino, *Study of the Dead Christ*, 1532.

A great strength of the collection is works by Italian draftsmen. One of the many exceptional drawings is *Study of the Dead Christ* by Agnolo Bronzino, related to a tabernacle fresco near Florence of ca. 1532, which captures the mannerist emphasis on *disegno* with its sinuous lines and bold contours. With its delicately modeled figures, a double-sided sheet of studies by Correggio for his decoration of the cupola of San Giovanni Evangelista in the artist's native Parma is an excellent example of his draftsmanship. In addition to works by sixteenth-century masters, there are sheets by such High Baroque artists as Pietro da Cortona and Gianlorenzo Bernini. The selection concludes with sheets by eighteenth-century Venetian artists Giambattista and Giandomenico Tiepolo.

The collection is also rich in drawings by French artists from the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries and includes a lively study of *A Man Playing a Guitar* by Antoine Watteau. A landscape by Claude Lorrain, the seventeenth-century master of pastoral scenes, is one of several drawings by French artists active in Rome; there are sheets by such eighteenth-century artists as Charles-Joseph Natoire, Jean-Honoré

Fragonard, and Hubert Robert as well as nineteenth-century artists J. A. D. Ingres, François-Marius Granet, and Michel-Martin Droelling. A masterful sheet in brush and wash by François-André Vincent depicts a drawing lesson with amorous undertones. Nineteenth-century French drawing is represented by sheets from Eugène Delacroix, the Barbizon master Théodore Rousseau, the symbolist Odilon Redon, and Edgar Degas.

The German, Dutch, and British schools are also represented. Sheets by British artists include a view of the ruins of St. Paul's Cathedral by the seventeenth-century draftsman Francis Place, a freely drawn landscape by Thomas Gainsborough, and an oil sketch of the shore at Brighton by John Constable. A luminous view of a street in Amsterdam by the eighteenth-century artist Jacob Cats is one of several sheets by Dutch artists. In addition to an intimate moonlit landscape by the German Romantic artist Caspar David Friedrich, the German school is represented by such twentieth-century artists as Käthe Kollwitz, Adolf von Menzel, and Lovis Corinth.



Antoine Watteau, *A Man Playing a Guitar*, 1717.

“We are delighted to be able to share with the public this beautiful private collection which has never been shown before,” said Charles E. Pierce, Jr., Director of The Morgan Library & Museum. “The drawings are exquisite and a testament to the connoisseurship and refined taste of their owner whom we are proud to call a friend of the Morgan.”

Private Treasures: Four Centuries of European Master Drawings is organized by Rhoda Eitel-Porter, Charles W. Engelhard Curator and Department Head of Drawings and Prints, The Morgan Library & Museum; Jennifer Tonkovich, Associate Curator of Drawings and Prints, The Morgan Library & Museum; Margaret Morgan Grasselli, Curator of Old Master Drawings, National Gallery of Art; and Andrew Robison, Mellon Senior Curator of Prints and Drawings, National Gallery of Art. A fully illustrated catalogue will accompany the exhibition.

After the Morgan, the exhibition will travel to the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. (May 6 through September 16, 2007).

The Morgan Library & Museum

A complex of buildings in the heart of New York City, 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 it is a museum, independent research library, musical and performing arts venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. Nearly a century after its founding, the Morgan maintains a unique position in the cultural life of New York City and is considered one of its greatest treasures. With the 2006 reopening of its newly renovated campus, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan reaffirms its role as an important repository for the history, art, and literature of Western civilization from 4000 B.C. to the twenty-first century.

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.

Admission

\$12 for adults; \$8 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 to the McKim rooms is without charge during the following times: Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m.; Friday, 7 to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 4 to 6 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.

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