

THE DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE PRESENTS FIRST US RETROSPECTIVE OF THE WORKS OF CARLO DOLCI

WELLESLEY, Mass. – The Davis Museum at Wellesley College will present *The Medici's Painter: Carlo Dolci and 17th-Century Florence*, the first-ever exhibition in America



Dolci, Carlo, *The Penitent Magdalene* (ca. 1630). Oil on canvas.

devoted to the luminous and meticulously rendered paintings and drawings of 17th-century Italian artist Carlo Dolci (1616–1687), and the Davis Museum's most ambitious Old Master project to date. Dolci was arguably the most important artist in Florence during the 17th-century and the exhibition brings together for the first time in the U.S. the artist's sophisticated devotional work, pictures and drawings of the highest pictorial, technical, and spiritual qualities. On view in the Camilla Chandler and Dorothy Buffum Chandler Gallery and the Marjorie and Gerald Bronfman Gallery, *The Medici's Painter* will open on February 9, and run through July 9, 2017.

The exhibition includes more than 50 paintings and drawings, on loan from the most important public and private collections in the U.S. and abroad, and from otherwise inaccessible private collections.

Works will travel from the Uffizi Gallery and Pitta Palace in Florence, the Louvre Museum in Paris, The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, among others. The exhibition will travel for presentation at the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University in August 2017.

The Medici's Painter is organized by Dr. Eve Straussman-Pflanzer, Head of European Art Department & Elizabeth and Allan Shelden Curator of European Paintings at the Detroit Institute of Arts, with Dr. Francesca Baldassari. Straussman-Pflanzer was previously the Assistant Director of Curatorial Affairs and Senior Curator of Collections at the Davis Museum.

“The exhibition will consider Dolci's art in depth as well as consider art as a critical diplomatic, political, and cultural tool from the early modern period to the present,” said Straussman-Pflanzer. “It provides the first opportunity in the United States to study the life and *oeuvre* of the most important artist in 17th-century Florence.”

Best known for his half-length and single-figure devotional pictures, Dolci was also a gifted painter of altarpieces and portraits as well as a highly accomplished draughtsman. He created his first works of art in the mid-1620s, after entering the studio of the Florentine painter Jacopo Vignali (1592–1664) in 1625. Among his first patrons were members of the Medici family and foreign nobility, who immediately recognized his reverence for detail, brilliant palette, and seemingly enameled surfaces.

New Scholarship

This exhibition moves beyond the notion of Dolci as a sentimental painter or an exclusively devotional one, and returns to an appreciation of the aesthetic merits, naturalistic underpinnings, and cultural context of the artist's work.

Exhibiting Dolci's *oeuvre* chronologically with attention to autograph works by the artist, the exhibition will exceed longstanding prejudices by presenting the artist's exquisite surfaces and breathtaking palette alongside preparatory drawings. Such juxtaposition will reveal the sheer technical virtuosity of the artist as well as the naturalistic vein that forms the foundation of his entire legacy.

PUBLICATION

An exhibition catalogue, published by the Davis Museum at Wellesley College and distributed by Yale University Press, will accompany the exhibition. The catalogue will be edited by Julia P. Henshaw with contributions by early modern scholars Francesca Baldassari, Edward Goldberg, Scott Nethersole, Lisa Goldenberg Stoppato, and Eve Straussman-Pflanzer. The price for the catalogue is \$35.

RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Opening Celebration and Keynote Lecture

Collins Cinema, Davis Lobby and Galleries

Thursday, February 9, 2017

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Keynote Lecture

7:30 – 9 p.m. - Reception and Gallery Viewing

Join the Davis to celebrate the opening of our spring 2017 special exhibitions, *The Medici's Painter: Carlo Dolci and 17th-Century Florence*, *Reframing the Past: Piranesi's Vedute di Roma*, *On Distant Shores: Landscapes by Constable and Kensett*, *The Fine Print: Selections from the Collection Bequest of Ann Kirk Warren '50*, and *Daphne Wright: Prayer Project*. The evening kicks off with a Keynote Lecture offered by Dr. Francesca Baldassari, generously supported by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. A festive reception follows.

Performance: *The Sound World of Carlo Dolci*

Camilla Chandler and Dorothy Buffum Chandler Gallery

Friday, March 3, 2017
6:30 – 8 p.m.

Set amidst the luminous devotional works of Florentine painter Carlo Dolci, this program of 17th-century Italian song brings a sonic dimension to the experience of looking. Featuring soprano Laurie Monahan, Laura Jeppesen on viola da gamba, and Catherine Liddell on theorbo and baroque guitar, the concert includes music by Barbara Strozzi, Vincenzo Calestani, Jacopo Peri, Girolamo Frescobaldi, and early-modern composers. This event requires ticketed admission to *The Medici's Painter: Carlo Dolci and 17th-Century Florence*. This event is co-sponsored by Medieval-Renaissance Studies (Moffet Fund), the Davis Museum, and the Wellesley College Music Department.

Film Series: A Grand Tour

Screenings in Collins Cinema at 6:30 p.m.

The Davis spring film series considers the “Grand Tour”—a rite of passage for young aristocrats (men, and some women) coming of cultural age from the mid-17th through the mid-19th century. The Grand Tour itinerary linked passion for touristic adventure to the cultural legacies of classical antiquity and the Renaissance, informed tastes in art and collecting, and reinforced notions of class status and empire. These four films vary in source material, genre, and time period, from modern psychological horror to classic romantic comedy, yet have one thing in common—a life-changing visit to Italy, though perhaps not as “grand” as expected. This film series is generously supported by the Davis Museum Film Program Gift.

Death in Venice (Dir., Luchino Visconti, 1971)

Thursday, February 23, 2017

Seeking respite and recovery from illness, Gustav von Aschenbach alights in Venice. Unexpectedly, he finds relief and hope in the beauty of a teenaged boy named Tadzio with whom he becomes enamored. After an outbreak of cholera, Aschenbach's condition quickly worsens—but he feels the most alive he ever has, even in the city that eventually kills him.

Roman Holiday (Dir., William Wyler, 1953)

Thursday, March 16, 2017

In this romantic comedy, a young Princess Ann escapes her dull political duties for a day of sightseeing in Rome with an American journalist who hides his real agenda. Transformed by the city and his company, she faces uncertainty about the confines of her royal role. Starring Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck.

A Room with a View (Dir. James Ivory, 1985)

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Based on the novel by E.M. Forster, this sweeping romantic drama finds young Lucy Honeychurch and her chaperone on holiday in Florence, ensconced at a small pension amidst free-thinking fellow travellers. Back at home, Lucy is wooed by an affluent and cultured suitor, and must decide whether to abide the conventions of Edwardian England or follow her heart.

The Talented Mr. Ripley (Dir., Anthony Minghella, 1999)

Thursday, May 11, 2017

An impulsive young “nobody” is enlisted to convince the scion of a wealthy family to return to America. Thus begins a chain of deception with dire consequences. Based on the novel by Patricia Highsmith, this psychological thriller matches Tom Ripley’s passions to the dramatic landscapes of Italy’s great tourist destinations.

Family Day: A Grand Tour of Italy

Davis Lobby, Plaza, and Galleries

Saturday, April 29, 2017

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The Davis welcomes visitors of all ages to participate in a day of activities inspired by Italian art and culture. This free event features a treasure hunt in the galleries, art making, and performances that will entertain the whole family. Family Day is generously supported by the Palley Endowment Fund for Davis Museum Outreach Programs.

Generously supported by the Wellesley College Friends of Art at the Davis Museum, Davis World Cultures Fund, E. Franklin Robbins Art Museum Fund, National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts Museum Program Fund, Anonymous '70 Endowed Davis Museum Program Fund, The Judith Blough Wentz '57 Museum Programs Fund, the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, the Robert Lehman Foundation, Inc., and the Office of the Provost and Dean of Wellesley College. Grants were received from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, and the Robert Lehman Foundation, Inc.

ADMISSION AND PRICING

Please Note: Tickets are required for this entry to this exhibition. General Admission \$20; Wellesley College alumnae \$12. Gratis entry for all students, Wellesley College faculty and staff, Friends of Art members, and Durant Society members. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.theDavis.org.

ABOUT THE DAVIS MUSEUM

One of the oldest and most acclaimed academic fine arts museums in the United States, the Davis Museum is a vital force in the intellectual, pedagogical and social life of Wellesley College. It seeks to create an environment that encourages visual literacy, inspires new ideas, and fosters involvement with the arts both within the College and the larger community.

ABOUT WELLESLEY COLLEGE AND THE ARTS

The Wellesley College arts curriculum and the highly acclaimed Davis Museum are integral components of the College’s liberal arts education. Departments and programs from across the campus enliven the community with world-class programming— classical and popular music, visual arts, theatre, dance, author readings, symposia, and lectures by some of today’s leading artists and creative thinkers—most of which are free and open to the public.

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been the preeminent liberal arts college for women. Known for its intellectual rigor and its remarkable track record for the cultivation of women leaders in every arena,

Wellesley—only 12 miles from Boston—is home to some 2,400 undergraduates from 49 states and 58 countries.

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High-resolution images and interviews available upon request