

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

111 South Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60603
t 312.443.3626 f 312.443.0193 www.artinstituteofchicago.org

ART
INSTITUTE
CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2014

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Rebecca Baldwin
(312) 443-3625
rbaldwin@artic.edu

Nina Litoff
(312) 443-3363
nlitoff@artic.edu

MASTERPIECES OF ITALIAN DRAWING PRESENTED AT THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

***Strokes of Genius: Italian Drawings from the Goldman Collection*
Includes 60 Works Never Before Seen in Public**

The Art Institute of Chicago presents more than 80 masterpieces of Italian draftsmanship selected from the collection of Chicagoans Jean and Steven Goldman in the exhibition **Strokes of Genius: Italian Drawings from the Goldman Collection**, on view Saturday, November 1, 2014, through Sunday, February 1, 2015, in Galleries 124-127.

Focusing on the periods of Mannerism and the early Baroque, the exhibition includes nearly 60 drawings never before seen in public. Recent acquisitions of works, ranging from a figure study by Baccio Bandinelli to a composition drawing by Salvator Rosa, are shown with two dozen significant drawings from the Goldmans' existing collection, including masterpieces by Pietro da Cortona, the Carracci, and Francesco Salviati. The exhibition features many of the Goldmans' promised gifts to the Art Institute alongside about 20 related works from the museum's Prints and Drawings Collection that provide greater historical context for this prodigious era of Italian art.



The exhibition focuses on “The Art of Composition” by displaying drawings from the late 15th to the mid-17th century according to their intended function. Organized by drawing type—figures,

head studies, and compositional sketches—*Strokes of Genius* invites viewers to compare the use of media and technique in each category. Most were executed as working drawings to develop compositions for paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts. This collection provides a unique opportunity to view more than one study for a single project. On display are multiple preparatory sheets for one commission allowing viewers to witness the thought process of the artist as he rejects and changes ideas while searching for his form. Two sheets by Francesco Vanni (1563–1610) for *The Coronation of the Virgin*, created for the Chiesa del Santuccio in Siena between 1610 and 1614, vividly illustrate this process.

In addition to preparatory drawings, the exhibition includes meticulously finished presentation renderings that were executed as works of art in their own right, including a set of the *Four Evangelists* by Guercino (1591?–1666). The increasing interest in presentation drawings by both collectors and scholars reflects the importance placed on drawing as a medium capable of conveying artistic genius and worthy of collecting for its singular merits. In addition to well-known artists of the period, the exhibition includes a number of stellar works by masters who were once deemed minor but have since been reconsidered by scholars.

An exhibition catalogue, prepared by independent scholars Jean Goldman and Nicolas Schwed, includes essays situating the collection within the context of Mannerism and examining the role of drawing in the business of art. In conjunction with the exhibition, the Art Institute will host an international symposium on Friday, October 31 titled “The Role of the Itinerant Artist in the Dissemination of Romanism in the 16th Century.”

Related Events

Symposium: The Role of the Itinerant Artist in the Dissemination of Romanism in the 16th Century

October 31, 2014

11:00am–5:00pm

Fullerton Hall

Free with museum admission—Reservations recommended

Celebrate the opening of *Strokes of Genius: Italian Drawing from the Goldman Collection* with a daylong program featuring visiting curators and scholars exploring the influence of 16th-century artists who traveled the Italian peninsula.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Chamber Series

January 25, 2015

Call 312-294-3000 for reservations

Inspired by works from the exhibition *Strokes of Genius: Italian Drawings from the Goldman Collection*, we turn our attention to Italy as the source of creative genius. Works for string

quartet by Italian masters Busoni, Puccini and Verdi exhibit a musical sampling of the country's perhaps unmatched legacy of contribution of the arts and dedication to the artistic process.

To download high-resolution images, visit our press room at <http://www.artic.edu/about/press> and use "press" for both the username and password.

Images: Francesco de Rossi, il Salviati. *The Head of a Female Warrior*, n.d. Jean and Steven Goldman Collection

#

www.artic.edu
[Twitter](#)
[Facebook](#)

MUSEUM HOURS
Daily: 10:30–5:00
Thursdays until 8:00

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days
Children under 14 always free
Members always free

The Art Institute of Chicago gratefully acknowledges the support of the Chicago Park District on behalf of the citizens