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**February 18, 2005**

**DAVIS MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER, WELLESLEY COLLEGE  
ANNOUNCES SPRING 2005 EXHIBITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS**

**Wellesley, MA**—The Davis Museum and Cultural Center, Wellesley College announces its spring 2005 exhibition schedule, featuring works by 16<sup>th</sup>- century master Hendrick Goltzius and his Mannerist contemporaries, Indian miniatures paintings of Mughal (Muslim) and Rajput (Hindu) women, and a site-specific installation by Egyptian-born artist Ghada Amer. In addition, the Modernist Art and Art from China, Japan and Korea permanent galleries are being newly installed. **A multi-exhibition opening will take place on Wednesday, March 9 from 5 – 7 pm; with a 5:30 talk by guest artist Ghada Amer followed by informal gallery discussions with curators.**

**EXHIBITIONS**

**The “Master Prints” of Hendrick Goltzius and Mannerist Art March 9 – June 19**

Celebrating the recent acquisition of virtuoso Dutch engraver Hendrick Goltzius’s *Life of the Virgin* series, this exhibition frames his work within the history of Mannerist Art – from its origins in late Renaissance Italy to the early 17<sup>th</sup>- century Netherlands. Goltzius was internationally acclaimed in his day as a leading artistic personality of the Netherlands whose engravings disseminated the distinctly Dutch style of Mannerism, and a pioneer in the rise of the Dutch realism and classicism. Goltzius’s *Life of the Virgin* series, in which he recreated the style – not specific works – of his artistic predecessors, is Mannerist art *par excellence*. Overwhelmingly about style and dialogue with artistic tradition, these six engravings, also known as his “Master Prints,” are, individually and collectively, a daring and bravura performance.

The characteristics of the Mannerist style that flourished throughout 16<sup>th</sup>- century Europe include elongated proportions, flamboyant forms and compositions, serpentine curves suggestive of movement, and often idiosyncratic and mysterious subject matter. Included in the exhibition are sculpture, paintings, prints and drawings by and after Giorgio Vasari, Giambologna, Marcantonio Raimondi, Bartholomaeus Spranger, Gregorio Martinez y Spinosa, Maarten de Vos, as well as prints by Albrecht Dürer, and Lucas van Leyden, which were models for Goltzius’s “Master Prints.”

Organized by Richard Wallace, Professor of Art Emeritus and Elizabeth Wyckoff, Associate Curator of Prints and Drawings.

**The Observed and Envisioned: 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Century Indian Miniature Paintings of Mughal and Rajput Women** *March 9 – June 19*

This fascinating exhibition of 16<sup>th</sup>- through 19<sup>th</sup>- century Indian miniature paintings explores the realistic, earthly depictions of women in Mughal art with the more idealized, 'other-worldly' qualities of Rajput works.

From the early 16<sup>th</sup>-century through the mid 19<sup>th</sup>- century, the Mughals, an Islamic dynasty with Central Asian origins, ruled most of northern India. However, some regions of the northwestern part of the subcontinent remained under the control of the native Hindu Rajput kings. Miniature painting reached its pinnacle during this era and was shaped to some extent by each court's religious affiliation. During this very exciting period in the history of India, the stylistic and ideological depictions of women and their identities is a compelling study in contrasting viewpoints. The exhibition closes with the contemporary work by Boston-based Pakistani artist **Ambreen Butt**, who extends the tradition of miniature painting and its focus on female identity into the 21<sup>st</sup>- century.

Organized by Afshan Bokhari, Visiting Instructor in Art.

**INSTALLATION**

**The Reign of Terror** *March 9 – June 19*

For her site-specific work in the museum's lobby, Cairo-born artist **Ghada Amer** has designed wallpaper and tableware focusing on definitions of "terror" and "terrorism" derived from 18<sup>th</sup>- through 21<sup>st</sup>- century American, English, French and Arabic dictionaries. Amer's embroidered paintings and text-related works, in such media as fabric, cloth and, most recently, gardens, explore feminist, historical and political issues.

"The life story of Ghada Amer (Cairo, Egypt, 1963) is impregnated with cultural plurality. Her work takes moments of history from different places on the planet, recycles them, and, through her personal Egyptian woman's viewpoint, turns them into criticism, commitment or mere pleasure, depending on the case, but always from her bi-unique position as a woman and a daughter of a very specific culture: that of Arab civilization," says Consuelo Ciscar, Director of the Institut Valencià d'Art Modern in Spain, where Amer's work was on view during the fall of 2004.

Trained at the École des Beaux-Arts (Nice, France) and at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Ghada Amer has been widely exhibited (San Francisco Art Institute: Contemporary Ars Museum, Houston; Henie Onstad Kunstcenter, Oslo; Kunstpalast Düsseldorf; Tel Aviv Museum of Art). She is currently working on a commissioned garden for the Queens Museum of Art (Queens, New York), and on her contribution for the 2005 Venice Biennial.

Organized by Anja Chávez, Curator of Contemporary Art.

## NEW PERMANENT COLLECTION INSTALLATIONS

### Modernist Art

*Opens March 9, 2005*

A thought-provoking reinstallation of the Davis' modernist art collection explores the emergence of abstraction from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup>- century to the 1940's and includes artistic styles such as Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Expressionism, Cubism, geometric abstraction, and non-objective art. Avant-garde artists of this time refuted conventional norms of beauty and insisted on the necessity of experimentation for its own sake. This collection includes works by Claude Monet, Diego Rivera, Auguste Rodin, Jean Arp, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, and Sonia Delaunay-Terk.

### Art from China, Japan and Korea

*April 8, 2005 – June 2006*

From 3<sup>rd</sup>-century B.C. Chinese pottery to Tang Dynasty warriors, from a 3<sup>rd</sup>-century A.D. figure astride a Chimera to Korean jars from the same period, from a huge 18<sup>th</sup>-century Chinese silk Guanyin scroll to delicate 19<sup>th</sup>-century Hiroshige woodcuts, this reinstallation presents the broad range of the museum's East Asian Collections. Several of these high-quality and rare works are on view at the Davis for the first time. Offered in conjunction with the **Asian Arts Festival** and the introduction of Wellesley College's East Asian Studies Program.

*Modernist Art and Art from China, Japan and Korea* are organized by Dabney Hailey, Associate Curator of Collections.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

### March 8 at 6 pm: Sheba Chhachhi Lecture

One of India's premier installation artists Sheba Chhachhi, who lives and works in Delhi, uses photographs, text, sculpture, found objects, video, sound and light. Her work relates to women's issues, peace issues and female divine figures in India and South Asia.

### March 9 at 5 pm: Multi-Exhibition Opening Reception

Featuring a **5:30 pm** talk by Cairo-born installation artist **Ghada Amer**, whose installation "*The Reign of Terror*" is on view in the Davis Museum's lobby. 6:00 pm: *The "Master Prints" of Hendrick Goltzius and Mannerist Art* with Professor of Art Richard Wallace and Associate Curator of Prints and Drawings Elizabeth Wyckoff. 6:20 pm *The Observed and Envisioned: 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Indian Miniature Paintings of Mughal and Rajput Women* with Visiting Instructor in Art Afshan Bokhari. 6:40 pm: *Modernist Art* by Associate Curator of Collections Dabney Hailey.

### March 11 at 8 pm: Tres Vitas: Three Lives, Three Stories, One Show

This live music theatre performance is based on the lives of three legendary Latin American women: Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, Salvadorian peasant activist Rufina Amaya and Argentine poet Alfonsia Storni. Written by Wellesley College Professor of Spanish Marjorie Agosin and performed by the Core Ensemble.

### March 30 at 5 pm: What You See is Not What You Get: Deceptive Restorations and Alterations in Old Master Prints

A lecture by Roy Perkinson, Head of Paper Conservation, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and co-author of *How to Care for Works of Art on Paper*. Perkinson presents examples of some of the most perplexing "invisible" alterations to old master prints and describes how they were made and how to detect them.

### April 6 at 7 pm: Bapsi Sidhwa, A Leading Voice in South Asian American Literature

Noted author Bapsi Sidhwa, described as Pakistan's finest English-language novelist, talks about her work. Sidhwa is the recipient of the 1994 Lila Wallace: Reader's Digest Writer's

Award, the 1991 New York Times Notable Book Award, and the 1991 Sitara-i-Imtiaz, Pakistan's highest national honor in the arts, among others.

**April 7 at 4 pm: Shaping a Life in the Arts: Perspectives from East Asian Women**

A panel discussion with Chen Yi, Chinese composer; Min Xiao-Fen, pipa player; Chan Hae Lee, Korean composer; Pui Yan Li, Cantonese Opera performer; Jennifer Milioto Matsue, ethnomusicologist specializing in modern Japanese music; and Artemis Willis, film maker who recently produced a film on a former Geisha living in New York. Following a brief presentation on each artist's work, panelists discuss the impact of gender and social factors on their development as artists in East Asian societies.

**April 8 at 5 pm: Art from China, Japan and Korea**

Opening reception for this new gallery installation is presented in conjunction with the festival celebrating the Artistic Legacy of East Asia. The festival, which runs from April 2 through April 11, is free and open to the public. For further festival information, please call 781.283.3226 or email [jrubenst@wellesley.edu](mailto:jrubenst@wellesley.edu).

**April 13 at 6:30 pm: Indo-Persian Miniature Painting: Techniques, History and the Artist's Gaze**

Ambreen Butt is a Boston-based artist who teaches "Miniature Painting" and "Painting as Metaphor" at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Butt will discuss the ways in which her "gaze" as a female miniature painter extends the tradition of miniature painting and its focus on women into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**April 20 at 5 pm: The Meditative Function of Hendrick Goltzius's *Life of the Virgin* (1593-94)**

Walter S. Melion, Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Art History at Emory University, explores Goltzius's portrayal of the soul as a picture within the picture in the *Life of the Virgin* engravings. Melion, a specialist in Northern Renaissance and Baroque art, has published extensively on Goltzius's printmaking enterprise, with a special emphasis on *The Life of the Virgin* series, as well as on Karel van Mander's theoretical writings.

**April 22 at 6:30 pm: Narrative, Raga, and Rasa**

Kim Masteller, Assistant Curator Islamic and Later Indian Art at the Sackler Museum, Harvard University, explores relationships between literature, the visual and performing arts, and aesthetics in ancient and medieval India.

**ALL PROGRAMMING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.  
FREE ADMISSION. FREE PARKING.**

**MEDIA NOTE: For more information, digital images, or to set up an interview, please contact Nina J. Berger at 781-283-2034 or [ninajberger@hotmail.com](mailto:ninajberger@hotmail.com).**

**Davis Museum and Cultural Center Hours**

From Feb 1 – May 21: Tues–Sat, 11-5pm, Wed eve until 8pm, and Sun noon-4pm; May 22 – September 4: Tues-Sun, noon-4pm. The museum is closed Mondays and holidays.

Recorded information about museum exhibitions, events, and directions is available at 781-283-2051 or on our web site at: [www.davismuseum.wellesley.edu](http://www.davismuseum.wellesley.edu). For tour information, please call 781-283-3382. The museum's Collins Café, recognized for its innovative cuisine, offers a fresh menu daily and is open weekdays until 3:30pm.

The museum, Collins Café and Collins Cinema are wheelchair accessible and wheelchairs are available for use in the Museum without charge. Special needs may be accommodated by contacting the Director of Disability Services, Jim Wice at 781-283-2434 or at [jwice@wellesley.edu](mailto:jwice@wellesley.edu).

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