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January 2009

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*High resolution images and interviews upon request*

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**Davis Museum and Cultural Center, Wellesley College, presents**

***Prints in an Age of Artistry:  
Selections from a Private Collection of 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Italian Prints***

**Wellesley, MA** – This spring, the Davis Museum and Cultural Center at Wellesley College will have three diverse offerings: two temporary exhibitions (*Prints in an Age of Artistry: Selections from a Private Collection of 16<sup>th</sup> - & 17<sup>th</sup> - Century Italian Prints* and a film by Michal Rovner: *Border*); and a powerful reinstallation of the permanent collection which includes *Perceiving Space in Art* and *The-Artist-as-Curator: Kiki Smith*. The Opening Reception takes place on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 from 6-8pm. The public is invited.

*Prints in an Age of Artistry: Selections from a Private Collection of 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Italian Prints* is on view at the Davis thanks an anonymous Boston-area collector who has been quietly acquiring 16<sup>th</sup>- and 17<sup>th</sup>-century Italian prints for decades, and has assembled an impressive collection of prints by a wide range of Italian artists as well as a handful of Dutch artists who were active in Italy. He has consistently applied his rigorous eye and intellect to choosing only the most exquisite impressions available, and he has often managed to find rare, unique and proof impressions. The high quality of his collection, and the breadth of its reach, along with his personal rigor, modesty and generosity, contribute to this a highly spirited, beautiful and educational exhibition.

The exhibition emphasizes connoisseurship by highlighting the rare and unique working proofs and states that form a particular focus of the collector's sensibility. It is anticipated that this will enable a discussion about the working practices of printmakers in

Renaissance and Baroque Italy, as well as the choices and possibilities open to a collector as s/he decides what direction to take the collection in. A variety of subject matter and techniques also provide the opportunity to survey the role of prints as conveyors of information and as active agents in the explosion of visual literacy in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries; to compare the development of etching against the background of so-called “reproductive” engraving; as well as the role of prints as teaching tools, in the artist’s studio, in libraries, and beyond.

Artists whose works are included in the exhibition include: Cherubino Alberti, Stefano della Bella, Giulio Bonasone, the Master of the Die, Agostino, Annibale Carracci, Benedetto Castiglione, Bartolomeo Coriolano, Pieter van Laer, Parmigianino, Giuseppe Ribera, Salvatore Rosa, Raffaello Schiamanossi, and Pietro Testa. The subjects include among others religious representations, allegory, landscape, festival imagery, book illustration and portraiture.

The exhibition focuses on connoisseurship, collecting, and the roles of prints. Guest curator and Professor of Art Emeritus Richard Wallace, author of the catalogue raisonne of Salvatore Rosa’s prints, and co-author with Sue Welsh Reed of the landmark 1989 exhibition catalogue, *Italian Etchers of the Renaissance and Baroque*, has intimate knowledge of both this particular collection and that period of Italian printmaking. His long experience of teaching and looking hard and reading prints will encourage viewers of this exhibition to engage actively with the prints both intellectually and in all their physicality.

*This exhibition has been funded by the S. Jane Burrell Lacy and Benjamin H. Lacy Fund, Constance Rhind Robey ’81 Fund for Museum Exhibitions, and Judith Blough Wentz ’57 Museum Programs Fund.*

#### **RELATED PROGRAMMING**

Artist Talk: Printmaker Andrew Raftery

Tues March 17

12:30-1:30pm

Andrew Raftery is Associate Professor in the Department of Printmaking at Rhode Island School of Design and winner of a 2008 Guggenheim Fellowship. He is one of a very small number of contemporary artists who have embraced the technically demanding technique of engraving as an integral part of his work. He will give a gallery talk in the exhibition *Prints in an Age of Artistry* responding to the 16<sup>th</sup> – and 17<sup>th</sup> – century prints on view from his perspective as an artist.

Teacher Workshop: Printmaker Andrew Raftery

Wed Mar 18

4-6pm

Regional K-12 teachers and the Wellesley community are invited to learn about engraving and the *Prints in an Age of Artistry* exhibition from the perspective of printmaker Raftery. He will lead a technical demonstration and gallery discussion. This program is part of an ongoing Teacher Workshop series designed to support educators of all levels in creative teaching and learning. 2 PDPs: RSVP required to amiller2@wellesley.edu. All are welcome to attend.

Gallery Talk: Sue Welsh Reed

Wed April 8

12:30-1:30 pm

Sue Welsh Reed, former curator of prints and drawings at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and leading specialist of 16th- and 17th-century Italian etching, will be speak about *Prints in an Age of Artistry*. She is co-curator, with Richard Wallace, of the landmark Boston Museum of Fine Arts exhibition and catalogue, *Italian Etchers of the Renaissance and Baroque* (1989) as well as numbers other exhibitions, including *American watercolors*, *Edgar Degas as a printmaker*, and a survey of 17<sup>th</sup>-century French prints.

**Davis Museum and Cultural Center hours and information**

Public Tours: Wednesday 1pm; Sundays 2pm led by museum docents. Free. Open to all.

Spring Museum Hours:

Tues–Sat, 11am-5pm, Wed until 8pm, and Sun 12noon-4pm.

Closed Mondays and holidays. Admission is free.

Location: Wellesley College campus, 106 Central Street in Wellesley, Massachusetts

Parking: Free and available in the lot behind the museum. Additional parking is available in the Davis Parking Garage.

Accessible: 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.

**FREE ADMISSION. FREE PARKING. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**