

the Davis.

DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact: Mary Agnew

617-512-7489, Maryagnew@outlook.com

High-resolution images and interviews available upon request

THE DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE SHOWCASES RARELY SEEN OBJECTS IN *SIGHT UNSEEN: THE DAVIS REVEALS ITS HIDDEN TAPESTRIES*

September 16, 2015 – October 25, 2015

November 3, 2015 - December 13, 2015

WELLESLEY, Mass. – The Davis Museum presents ***Sight Unseen: The Davis Reveals Its Hidden Tapestries***, an exhibition that takes an unprecedented look at a rarely studied area of its encyclopedic holdings through two rotations of large-scale tapestries from the 15th to 18th centuries. Taking advantage of the open floor plan as the Museum prepares for the fall 2016



Unknown (Flemish). Tapestry (*Lovers?*). Overall: 169 3/4 x 105 in. (431.2 x 266.7 cm). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Galen Stone. 1924.9

reinstallation of the permanent collections galleries, the curators will unroll eight tapestries, photograph them, and assess their conservation needs. The dimensions of the tapestries in the exhibition range from approximately 7 x 2 1/2 feet to 14 x 9 feet. Presented in two separate rotations, ***Sight Unseen*** will present a part of the Davis Museum's holdings never before seen by the public.

The first rotation—on view September 16 through October 25—will display three tapestries; and the second rotation—on view November 3 through December 13—will exhibit five additional tapestries. For the opening of the second rotation, the Davis will host a special event on November 3 offering viewers the opportunity to witness the unrolling of tapestries that have not been taken out of storage for decades.

“Although tapestries were among the most costly and important objects created in the Early Modern period, they are often relegated to storage in American museums due to their large size and light sensitivity,” said Eve Straussman-Pflanzer, Assistant Director of Curatorial Affairs/Senior Curator of Collections, and lead curator of the exhibition. “Because of the rarity of displaying these objects, we are excited to invite the public on November 3 to experience their unrolling at the same time as the Davis Museum staff.”

Sight Unseen: The Davis Reveals Its Hidden Tapestries is a collaborative curatorial effort with Eve Straussman-Pflanzer, Assistant Director of Curatorial Affairs/Senior Curator of Collections as the lead curator, and Meredith Fluke, Kemper Curator of Academic Programs, and Claire Whitner, Associate Curator, as co-curators.

EXHIBITION-RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The exhibition and related programs are supported entirely through the generosity of Wellesley College Friends of Art, now celebrating 50 years of giving.

Fall Opening Celebration

Wednesday, September 16 | 5–7 p.m. | Davis Lobby and Galleries

The Davis and the Wellesley College community will host a reception to celebrate the opening of the five fall 2015 exhibitions, allowing visitors the opportunity to view the Museum’s many new offerings. This event is free and open to the public.

Sight Unseen: Tapestry Unrolling Demonstration

Tuesday, November 3 | 1–4 p.m. | Dorothy Johnston Towne Gallery

During this drop-in program, visitors have the extremely rare opportunity to view the unrolling of the Davis’s large-scale tapestries in ***Sight Unseen***. Join textile conservators and Davis curatorial staff in studying these long unseen gems.

DAVIS MUSEUM GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley, Mass.

Museum Hours: Tuesday–Sunday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Mondays, holidays, and Wellesley College recesses.

Admission is free and open to the public.

Telephone: 781-283-2051

Website: www.theDavis.org

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

Tours: Led by student tour guides. Free. Call 781-283-3045.

Accessible: The Davis, Collins Café and Collins Cinema are wheelchair accessible and wheelchairs are available for use in the Museum without charge. For accommodations, please contact Jim Wice, director of disability services at 781-283-2434 or jwice@wellesley.edu.

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 2300 undergraduates from every state and 75 countries.

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