



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EUROPEAN MASTERWORKS FROM THE WADSWORTH'S PERMANENT COLLECTION ON VIEW WHILE MUSEUM UNDERGOES RENOVATION

A selection of European masterworks from the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art's permanent collection will be on view to the public March 29 – Sept. 21, 2014, while the museum undergoes the final phase of its five-year, \$33 million renovation. The installation—showcasing the work of 27 artists like Fra Angelico, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Francisco de Zurbarán—will be on display in Huntington Gallery and presents the last chance to see such beloved works as Caravaggio's "Saint Francis of Assisi in Ecstasy," until the Wadsworth's grand reopening celebration Fall 2015.

Oliver Tostmann, the Susan Morse Hilles Curator of European Paintings, Sculptures and Drawings, selected works spanning from the 15th to the 20th century that are popular with visitors and/or have not been on view at the museum for some time, including several pieces that recently returned from the acclaimed exhibition at the Denver Art Museum, "Court to Café: Three Centuries of French Masterworks from the Wadsworth Atheneum."

"This presentation of European masterworks will truly allow our visitors to rediscover the fine quality of our paintings and will encourage them re-engage with our collection while the museum is under renovation," said Tostmann. "We did not want these cherished pieces to be hidden away in storage while our doors remain open to the public."

In addition to this temporary offering of European masterworks, visitors can also view contemporary works by Chuck Close, Frank Stella, Tom Wesselmann and Andy Warhol in the Morgan Great Hall through Sept. 21. And the museum's Avery building—the world's first International-style museum structure, housing the acclaimed MATRIX series, contemporary art, 20th-century European art, 18th- and 19th-century American art including works from the Hudson River School—is open to visitors while work on the other buildings is completed.

About the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Founded in 1842, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is the oldest public art museum in the United States. The museum's nearly 50,000 works of art span 5,000 years, from Greek and Roman antiquities to the first museum collection of American contemporary art. The Museum's five connected buildings—representing architectural styles from Gothic Revival to Modern International Style—are located at 600 Main Street in Hartford, Connecticut. Hours: Wed – Fri: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sat & Sun: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; First Thursdays: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Admission: \$5 – 10; discounts for members, students and seniors. Public phone: (860) 278-2670; website: thewadsworth.org.

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