



WADSWORTH ATHENEUM
MUSEUM OF ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Kim Hugo, (860) 838-4082

Kim.Hugo@thewadsworth.org

Image files to accompany publicity of this exhibition will be available for download at <http://press.thewadsworth.org>. Email to request login credentials.



**Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art to Receive \$30,000 Grant
from the National Endowment for the Arts**

Hartford, Conn. (June 24, 2021)—The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$30,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in support of *By Her Hand: Artemisia Gentileschi and Women Artists in Italy, 1500-1800*, the first exhibition solely dedicated to Italian women artists at the Wadsworth.

“As the country and the arts sector begin to imagine returning to a post-pandemic world, the National Endowment for the Arts is proud to announce funding that will help arts organizations such as the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, reengage fully with partners and audiences,” said NEA Acting Chairman Ann Eilers. “Although the arts have sustained many during the pandemic, the chance to gather with one another and share arts experiences is its own necessity and pleasure.”

By Her Hand celebrates the vibrant yet overlooked role of women artists in Italy around 1600. Featuring works by Artemisia Gentileschi, one of the most fascinating seventeenth-century Italian painters, the exhibition will provide the opportunity to view her *Self-Portrait as a Lute Player* from the Wadsworth’s collection and her *Self-Portrait as Saint Catherine of Alexandria* from the collection of the National Gallery London side by

side along with other examples of her pioneering depictions of strong women. In addition to Gentileschi, the exhibition introduces and celebrates the accomplishments of a diverse and dynamic group, from the court painter Sofonisba Anguissola (1532–1625) to the Venetian pastel artist Rosalba Carriera (1673–1757), among other talented but virtually unknown Italian women artists.

“*By Her Hand* is a ground-breaking exhibition that will explore the ways Artemisia Gentileschi and other leading Italian women artists practiced and succeeded in the art world of their time,” said Jeffrey N. Brown, the Wadsworth’s Interim Director and CEO. “The Wadsworth is grateful to have the support of the National Endowment of the Arts to realize this important exhibition and related programs.”

By Her Hand will be on view September 30, 2021–January 9, 2022 at the Wadsworth and will travel to the Detroit Institute of Arts where it will be on view February 6–May 29, 2022.

Exhibition and Program Support

By Her Hand: Artemisia Gentileschi and Women Artists in Italy, 1500-1800 is generously supported by the Cheryl Chase and Stuart Bear Family Foundation, JPMorgan Chase & Co., the National Endowment for the Arts, the Robert Lehman Foundation, the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, the Tavolozza Foundation, the Private Art Dealers Association, the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, and the Dau Family Foundation.

Sustaining support for the Wadsworth Atheneum provided by the Greater Hartford Arts Council’s United Arts Campaign with support from the Department of Economic and Community Development, Connecticut Office of the Arts.

About the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Founded in 1842 with a vision for infusing art into the American experience, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is home to a collection of nearly 50,000 works of art spanning 5,000 years and encompassing European art from antiquity through contemporary as well as American art from the 1600s to today. The Wadsworth Atheneum’s five connected buildings—representing architectural styles including Gothic Revival, modern International Style, and 1960s Brutalism—are located at 600 Main Street in Hartford, Conn.

Hours are noon–8pm Fridays, and noon–5pm Saturdays, and Sundays. Visitors are required to wear a face mask/covering while inside the museum. The library, food service, and Austin House are currently closed to the public. Admission is free through June 2021. Hours and admission subject to change. Advance ticket registration via thewadsworth.org is encouraged, not required. Phone: (860) 278-2670; website: thewadsworth.org.

Image caption: Artemisia Gentileschi, *Self-Portrait as a Lute Player*, c. 1615–18. Oil on canvas. Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Charles H. Schwartz Endowment Fund

###