

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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ARMAND HAMMER BEQUEATHS COLLECTION OF MASTER DRAWINGS TO NATIONAL GALLERY

Unique Drawing by Renaissance Artist Raphael Acquired with Funds
Provided by Armand Hammer

Four Other Old Master Drawings Also Given

WASHINGTON - National Gallery of Art director J. Carter Brown announced today that the drawings from The Armand Hammer Collection, on loan for the special exhibition opening April 26, will remain on permanent loan and are bequeathed to the National Gallery. Four of these drawings will come immediately to the Gallery as present gifts. Also announced is the Gallery's acquisition of a "cartoon," or full-scale preparatory drawing, for the painting La Belle Jardinière by the Renaissance master Raphael, with funds provided as a gift from Dr. Hammer.

"Once again, on behalf of the National Gallery, it is my pleasure to express our thanks to Dr. Hammer, whose generosity is becoming legendary," said J. Carter Brown. "The National Gallery and the nation will benefit by Dr. Hammer's keen appreciation of the art of the old masters as well as his marvellous public spirit."

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The Hammer bequest includes drawings by artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Albrecht Dürer, Michelangelo, Veronese, Rembrandt, Watteau, Tiepolo, Boucher and Fragonard, as well as works by 19th-century French artists Camille Pissarro, Edouard Manet, Edgar Degas, Paul Gauguin and Paul Cézanne.

In addition to the Raphael cartoon, the four gifts being announced today are works by Dürer, Veronese, Sacchi, and Creti, and they are all included in this exhibition.

"It is an honor to receive these extraordinary drawings," said Andrew Robison, senior curator at the National Gallery. "We have worked closely with Dr. Hammer over the years in his efforts to build his collection, and now take great pleasure and pride that these drawings will be added to the National Gallery's collection."

The Raphael cartoon, a study for the painting La Belle Jardinière in the collection of the Louvre, will be permanently installed in a specially built "chapel" in the West Building, Ground Floor. This cartoon, pricked for transfer onto canvas, is an important document of Raphael's working methods. It is the only full cartoon by any Renaissance artist in the United States and has been acquired by the National Gallery of Art through the generosity of The Armand Hammer Foundation. The gallery in front of the chapel will house selections from The Armand Hammer Collection on a rotating basis. This gallery and the specially built chapel will bear the permanent designation The Armand Hammer Collection.

Of the four drawings now given to the National Gallery, Dürer's The Centaur Family (1505) is a swiftly sketched jewel, one of the few surviving preparatory drawings for a Dürer engraving, specifically for The Satyr Family, dated 1505. Studies for Judith and Holofernes, David and Goliath, and Other Compositions by Paolo Veronese was made on the recto and verso of a letter dated September 18, 1582. The sheet is typical of Veronese's late phase, in which sets of single figures and small groups are rhythmically scattered across the same page. Andrea Sacchi's A Sacrifice to Pan (early 1630s) is a preparatory drawing for a fresco in the gallery of the Villa Sacchetti at Castelfusano, near Ostia. Apollo Standing in a River Landscape (1720-1730) by Donato Creti is executed in elaborate hatching and cross-hatching, simulating the scratchy appearance of etching.

It was also announced that the Trustees of the National Gallery have commissioned the inscription on marble plaques, near the entrance to the Raphael chapel, of the "Founding Benefactors, Prints and Drawings." In addition to The Armand Hammer Foundation, the inscription includes the names of the other major donors over the years to the Gallery's collection of prints and drawings.

An exhibition of the entire collection and the Raphael cartoon will open to the public on Sunday, April 26. The exhibition will remain on view through May 31, to be followed by continued rotations of The Armand Hammer Collection. A catalogue, fully illustrated in color, with a foreword by J. Carter Brown and a preface by Dr. Armand Hammer accompanies the exhibition celebrating the present and future gifts.