

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

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UPCOMING PUBLICATION OF THE "VIRTUE AND BEAUTY" EXHIBITION CATALOGUE ANNOUNCED BY THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Washington, D.C. - The National Gallery of Art, in association with Princeton University Press, will publish Virtue and Beauty: Leonardo's *Ginevra de' Benci* and Renaissance Portraits of Women early this fall. The catalogue accompanies the exhibition of the same name, which will be shown in the Gallery's West Building from September 30, 2001 through January 6, 2002. The 240-page catalogue of exquisite panel paintings, marble busts, medals, and drawings, examines the extraordinary rise of female portraiture in Florence from 1440 to 1540.

"This stunning exhibition catalogue not only illustrates some of the most extraordinary examples of Florentine portraits of women, but it also delves deeper into the role of Renaissance women, reflected in their portraits, as virtuous and beautiful individuals," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art.

The catalogue contains an introduction by editor and exhibition curator David Alan Brown, curator of Italian Renaissance paintings at the Gallery, and four engaging essays by other experts on Renaissance art: Dale Kent (*Women in Renaissance Florence*); Joanna Woods-Marsden (*Portrait of the Lady, 1430 – 1520*); Mary Westerman Bulgarella and Roberta Orsi Landini (*Costume in Fifteenth-Century Florentine Portraits of Women*); and Victoria Kirkham (*Poetic Ideals of Love and Beauty*). Following the essays are more than 170 color illustrations, including 96 full color plates, each accompanied by a concise entry that reveals key aspects of the portrait—from style to ongoing scholarly debates.

Virtue and Beauty: Leonardo's *Ginevra de' Benci* and Renaissance Portraits of Women will be available for \$55.00 (hardcover) and \$35.00 (softcover) at the National Gallery Shops or by calling (800) 697-9350. It will also be on sale in bookstores nationwide. Support for the catalogue was provided by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

The exhibition is made possible by generous support from Airbus.

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden, located on the National Mall between Third and Ninth Streets at Constitution Avenue, NW, are open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free of charge. For general information, call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's Web site at www.nga.gov.

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