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[Origins of European
Printmaking: Fifteenth-
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EXCEPTIONAL BAROQUE WOODCUTS ON VIEW OCTOBER 28, 2007 THROUGH MARCH 30, 2008



Hans Baldung Grien (1484/1485 - 1545)

Madonna and Child, 1515/1517

woodcut on laid paper

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Patrons' Permanent Fund

Washington, DC – The last flowering of the woodcut in its classic form will be revealed in *The Baroque Woodcut*, an exhibition of approximately 80 prints and illustrated books on view at the National Gallery of Art, October 28, 2007, through March 30, 2008, in the West Building prints and drawings galleries. Woodcuts achieved a final triumph in the baroque era when painters of outstanding caliber, such as Peter Paul Rubens and Guido Reni, chose it as a dramatic means for expressing the energy and refinement of their

preferences for painterly brushwork, lavish color, and subtle atmospheric tonality were all but impossible to recreate. Between 1580 and 1650, artists recognized the continuing potential of the woodcut as a vital artistic medium in its own right. Because woodcuts permit flexibility in scale and images can be reproduced quickly, the medium served as a highly effective way to disseminate works of art.

Exhibition Sponsorship and Organization

The exhibition is supported by a generous grant from the Thaw Charitable Trust. It has been organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington.

Curator and Related Activities

The exhibition curator is Peter Parshall, head of the old master prints department. Parshall was also curator of the 2005 exhibition, *Origins of European Printmaking: Fifteenth-Century Woodcuts and Their Public*.

Gallery talks will be held on October 30, 31, and November 9, 14, 19 at noon, and on November 28 at 2 p.m., starting in the West Building Rotunda.

General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden, located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets and Constitution Avenue NW are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. For 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.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those

entrances. For the safety of the works of art and visitors, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 x 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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