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THE MORGAN RECEIVES IMPORTANT GIFT OF FORTY DRAWINGS FROM ARTIST JIM DINE

New York, NY, April 3, 2009—The Morgan Library & Museum announced it has received a promised gift from artist Jim Dine of forty works on paper known as *The Glyptotek Drawings*.[★] The series was inspired by Greek and Roman sculpture, primarily from the Glyptothek Museum in Munich, and was created in 1987-88.



Jim Dine, *The Glyptotek Drawings*, 1987-88, charcoal on Mylar.
17 ¾ x 15 ½ in. (45 x 39.4 cm). Promised Gift of the artist to The
Morgan Library & Museum. Photograph courtesy of
PaceWildenstein.

The works combine a rich variety of media, including ink, charcoal, crayon, and paint, applied in broad gestures, resulting in a distinctive, expressive style. Occasionally the artist rubbed and spread the material with an eraser or with his fingers. The subjects include ancient busts, full-length sculptures, statuettes, fragments, and reliefs. Some, such as the *Barberini Faun*, the *Boy with a Goose*, and the *Wounded Trojan* from the Temple of Aphaia at Aegina, are well known.

“The Morgan is deeply grateful to Jim Dine for the generous gift of this series of drawings,” said William M. Griswold, director of the Morgan. “The work is extraordinary in its imaginative transformation of classical subjects and exhibits the vitality we have come to associate with Dine’s art. The Morgan is committed to building a strong collection of modern and contemporary drawings, and this work is an outstanding addition to it.”

In creating the *Glyptotek* series, Mr. Dine says he was drawn to the imperfections of the sculptures that reveal the passage of time: chipped noses, missing limbs, irregular surfaces. Most of the drawing subjects are barely contained within the edges of the sheets, a device that underscores their monumentality. The strong interplay of light and shadow and the sweeping strokes that convey the physical engagement of the artist vests these images with a romantic feeling, making them haunting modern visions of the ancient world.

[★][The artist prefers this spelling for his work.]

Dine had planned to make intaglio prints from the drawings and used Mylar, tracing paper, and translucent drafting paper as support. This process allowed for the images to be photographically transferred to etching plates; the prints were published in a 1988 limited edition entitled *Glyptotek*, with Dine's translation of a poem by Sappho.

"I am delighted to be able to make this gift to the Morgan, an institution I have long admired," Dine said. "In creating this work, I did not want to draw the ancient sculptures as dead objects, as stone. I wanted to put life into them and make them vigorous and physical. I have long had a great romance with the ancient world, and these works are an expression of that."

The series has been exhibited at a number of museums, including the Glyptothek, the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, and the Madison Art Center in Wisconsin.



Jim Dine, *The Glyptotek Drawings*, 1987–88, charcoal and enamel on drafting paper. 18 3/4 x 12 3/4 in. (47.6 x 32.4 cm). Promised Gift of the artist to The Morgan Library & Museum. Photograph courtesy of PaceWildenstein.

Another drawing by Dine, *Blind Owl* (2000), is currently on view at the Morgan in the exhibition *The Thaw Collection of Master Drawings: Acquisition Since 2002*.

THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM

A complex of buildings in the heart of New York City, The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today it is a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. A century after its founding, the Morgan maintains a unique position in the cultural life of New York City and is considered one of its greatest treasures. With the 2006 reopening of its newly renovated campus, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan reaffirmed its role as an important repository for the history, art, and literature of Western civilization from 4000 B.C. to the twenty-first century.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Morgan Library & Museum
225 Madison Avenue, at 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3405
212.685.0008
www.themorgan.org

HOURS

Tuesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; extended Friday hours, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

ADMISSION

\$12 for adults; \$8 for students, seniors (65 and over), and children (under 16); free to Members and children, 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.