

THE MORGAN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM TO BEGIN DIGITIZATION OF ITS RENOWNED DRAWINGS COLLECTION



Albrecht Dürer, *Adam and Eve*
The Morgan preserves an outstanding group of early German drawings, including eight by the celebrated Renaissance artist Albrecht Dürer.

New York, NY, September 20, 2013—The Morgan Library & Museum announced today that it will begin the digitization of its collection of master drawings, considered to be one of the greatest in the world. The initiative will result in a digital library of more than 10,000 images, representing drawings spanning the fourteenth to twenty-first centuries, available free of charge on the Morgan's website (www.themorgan.org). The project will begin in October and is expected to be completed within one year, contributing significantly to the Morgan's commitment to advancing drawings scholarship.

The images will be accessible in two

formats: one for general identification and another for detailed study with enhanced resolution. Scholarly information about each drawing will be linked to a corresponding Morgan catalogue record. Importantly, the project includes approximately 2,000 images of versos (reverse sides) of drawings that contain rarely seen sketches or inscriptions by the artist. The digital library will be available on an open-access basis, and can be downloaded for non-commercial uses such as classroom presentations, dissertations, and educational websites devoted to the fine arts.



Antoine Watteau, *Two Studies of a Girl*
The Morgan's collection of French drawings is one of the finest in the country, and its substantial holdings by eighteenth-century draftsmen are among the museum's greatest strengths.



Jacopo Pontormo, *Standing Male Nude and Two Seated Nudes*
The Morgan is one of the foremost repositories for sixteenth-century Italian drawings, and the breadth and depth of its collection is one of the principal strengths of the museum.

“The Morgan’s drawing collection is indisputably one of the finest in the world, however, images of only a small part of our holdings have been available in digital form,” said William M. Griswold, director of the museum. “This project will provide access to the full range of the collection and is critical to our institutional goal of promoting drawings scholarship and reaching out to an ever larger audience.”

Future plans for the project involve digitization of the department’s print collection, including its celebrated group of Rembrandt prints, as well as artists’ sketchbooks, and expanded scholarly catalogue records.

The Morgan’s Drawings Collection

For nearly a century the Morgan has played a leading role in the collecting, scholarship, and exhibition of master drawings. All the major European schools are represented in the collection, with particular strengths in the field of Italian drawings, including works by Raphael and Michelangelo, Annibale Carracci, and Giambattista and Domenico Tiepolo; French drawings, especially of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; British drawings, with an exceptional concentration of works by William Blake; and Dutch, Flemish, and German drawings,



Paul Cézanne, *Still Life with Pears and Apples, Covered Blue Jar, and Bottle of Wine*
The Morgan’s collection of nineteenth century drawings is renowned for exceptional sheets by the most celebrated artists of the period.

including numerous sheets by Dürer, Rubens, Rembrandt, and Friedrich, among many others. The

collection also includes a growing number of modern and contemporary works on paper as well as drawings



Egon Schiele, *Portrait of the Artist's Wife Seated, Holding Her Right Leg*
The Morgan’s holdings of modern and contemporary drawings are expanding rapidly and include masterworks from Picasso to Ellsworth Kelly.

by American artists. The Morgan's collection is thus unusual in that it represents, in increasing depth, continuity as well as innovation throughout the entire history of drawing.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP AND UNDERWRITING

Jennifer Tonkovich, Curator in the Department of Drawings and Prints, and Marilyn Palmeri, Imaging and Rights Manager, will lead the project team.

This project is generously underwritten by the Joseph F. McCrindle Foundation and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, with additional funding from the David L. Klein, Jr. Foundation.



The programs of The Morgan Library & Museum are made possible with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

The Morgan Library & Museum

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, more than a century after its founding in 1906, the Morgan serves as a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. In October 2010, the Morgan completed the first-ever restoration of its original McKim building, Pierpont Morgan's private library, and the core of the institution. In tandem with the 2006 expansion project by architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan now provides visitors unprecedented access to its world-renowned collections of drawings, literary and historical manuscripts, musical scores, medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, printed books, and ancient Near Eastern seals and tablets.

General Information

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

Just a short walk from Grand Central and Penn Station

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

\$18 for adults; \$12 for students, seniors (65 and over), and children (13–16); 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 and Café.