

## FACTSHEET

**Exhibition:** *A Woman's Wit: Jane Austen's Life and Legacy*  
**Press Preview:** Wednesday, November 4, 2009, 10 AM to NOON  
**Dates:** November 6, 2009, through March 14, 2010  
**Summary:** This exhibition explores the life, work, and legacy of Jane Austen (1775–1817), regarded as one of the greatest English novelists. Over the past two decades, numerous successful motion picture and television adaptations of Austen's novels have led to a resurgence of interest in her life and work. Providing a close-up portrait of Austen, this exhibition achieves tangible intimacy with the author through the presentation of her autograph manuscripts and personal letters, which the Morgan has not exhibited in a generation.

**Content:** The Morgan's collection of Austen's manuscripts and letters is the largest of any institution in the world and includes the darkly satiric *Lady Susan*, the only surviving manuscript of any of Austen's novels. Featuring approximately 100 works, the exhibition also includes first and early illustrated editions of Austen's novels as well as contemporary drawings and prints depicting people, places, and events of biographical significance. In addition to the literary influences that inspired and informed Austen's works, there will be responses by later writers as diverse as Kipling, Nabokov, and Yeats. A specially commissioned film of interviews with contemporary authors commenting on Austen's work and influence will also be shown in the gallery.

The exhibition includes:

- Letters and manuscripts
- Drawings and prints
- First and illustrated editions
- Short documentary-style film

Exhibition Sections:

- Life and letters
- Works
- Legacy

**Organization and Sponsors:**

*A Woman's Wit: Jane Austen's Life and Legacy* is generously supported by the Laurence Levine Charitable Fund, Inc. and Sir Thomas R. Moore.

The exhibition is organized by Declan Kiely, Robert H. Taylor Curator and Clara Drummond, Assistant Curator, Literary and Historical Manuscripts, The Morgan Library & Museum.

**Education and Programs:**

Lectures and Discussions

**A Preview of MASTERPIECE Classic's *Emma* with Rebecca Eaton**  
Wednesday, January 20, 6:30 PM

**From Gothic to Graphic: Adapting Jane Austen Novels**

In a lively presentation, authors of recently published books discuss their unique twist on Austen. Tuesday, January 26, 6:30 PM

### **Reading Jane Austen**

A reading group on three of Austen's most beloved novels:

Wednesday, January 27, 3-4:30 PM: *Pride and Prejudice*

Wednesday, February 10, 3-4:30 PM: *Emma*

Wednesday, February 24, 3-4:30 PM: *Persuasion*

### Films

**Pride and Prejudice** (1940, 118 minutes) Director: Robert Z. Leonard  
Sunday, January 24, 2 PM

**Sense and Sensibility** (1995, 135 minutes) Director: Ang Lee  
Friday, February 12, 7 PM

### Family Programs

#### **Paper Dolls at the Ball: Jane's Fashion for Kids**

Children will design evening costumes for women or women using paper doll templates, a wide variety of quality decorative papers, and colorful trimmings. Appropriate for ages 6-12. Saturday, February 6, 2-4 PM

#### **Winter Family Day Celebration**

Travel back to the days of the English Regency with art workshops that will bring Jane Austen's fashion sense to life. Then move on to Victorian London to meet Charles Dickens and his famous characters through the original play *Goblins, Ghosts, and Geezers: The Making of Scrooge*, \* improvisational skits, and other activities. Sunday, December 6, 2009, 2-5 p.m.

### Music and Dance

#### **Dancing with Darcy**

To celebrate the final weekend of the exhibition, travel back to Regency England for an evening of period music and dancing in the Morgan's elegant Gilbert Court. Friday, March 12, 7-8:30 PM

### Gallery Talks

Friday, November 20, 7 PM and Friday, February 26, 7 PM

For tickets and more information, visit [themorgan.org](http://themorgan.org).

### **About the Morgan:**

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 new 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.

### **Hours and**

#### **Location:**

The Morgan is located at 225 Madison Avenue at 36<sup>th</sup> Street in New York and open Tuesday to Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 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 and 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:**

Adults \$12; children (under 16) \$8; seniors (65 and over) \$8; students (with current ID) \$8; free to members and children 12 and under (must be accompanied by an adult). Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.

### **General**

#### **Information:**

(212) 685-0008 or [www.themorgan.org](http://www.themorgan.org)

*For further information please contact:*

*Sandra Ho, The Morgan Library & Museum (212) 590-0311 / [sho@themorgan.org](mailto:sho@themorgan.org)*