

EUGENE V. THAW

Eugene V. Thaw is well known in the international art world for his activities as an art dealer, collector, and author.

Mr. Thaw received his B.A. from St. John's College in Annapolis and enrolled in the graduate program in art history at Columbia University for two years before leaving to become an art dealer in 1950, at the remarkably young age of twenty-three, when he founded E.V. Thaw & Co. A founding member of the Art Dealers Association of America, Mr. Thaw has served on the association's board since 1964 and served as president from 1970 to 1972.

A critic of old master and modern art alike, Mr. Thaw has written numerous articles on aspects of art and art criticism that have appeared in *The New York Review of Books*, *The Times of London*, *The New Criterion*, *The New Republic*, and *The New York Times Book Review*, among other publications.

Mr. Thaw's formal association with The Morgan Library & Museum began in 1968, when he was elected to the Morgan's Association of Fellows. Since 1988, he has been a member of the Board of Trustees. Over the years, he has given more than ninety-five drawings to the Morgan, including a recent gift of fourteen sheets by such artists as Rembrandt and Picasso and a group of twenty letters written and illustrated by Vincent van Gogh. In 1991, Thaw made possible the dedication of the Morgan's Clare Eddy Thaw Gallery, and with a generous gift in 1999 he transformed the Morgan's conservation lab into the world-class Thaw Conservation Center.

The formation of his private collection of master drawings, a project enthusiastically shared by his wife, Clare Eddy Thaw, was begun during his earliest days as a dealer. Presently numbering almost 400 works, it is one of the finest private collections of drawings in the world. A promised gift to the Morgan, the Thaw Collection encompasses virtually the whole of Western art with renowned strengths in sheets by nineteenth-century French and German artists, superlative modern drawings, and works by sixteenth- and eighteenth-century Italian artists and seventeenth-century Dutch and Flemish masters.

Among the Thaws' first gifts to the Morgan in the late 1960s were drawings by eighteenth-century Italian draftsmen Giovanni Battista Piranesi and Francesco Guardi, which were shortly followed by examples from the hand of French artists Jacques Callot, Pierre-Paul Prud'hon, and Paul Cézanne. These initial gifts eventually led to the Morgan's first exhibition of the Thaw Collection in 1975. At that time, the Thaws decided it would be more satisfying to collect for an institution, or as Eugene Thaw put it, to "hitch myself to the Library's star," and they promised their collection to The Morgan Library & Museum. Since then the collection has more than tripled in size and has greatly expanded in scope.

The Thaw Collection of Master Drawings: Acquisitions Since 2002 marks the fifth exhibition of drawings from the Thaw Collection held at the Morgan. The exhibited works not only represent a broad chronological range and variety of schools and artists, but also a testament to Thaw's interests and intellectual curiosity. They can be viewed both as new additions to an extraordinary collection built up over a lifetime and as acquisitions made to address lacunae in the Morgan's holdings as well as to expand its parameters.

In addition to one of the finest collections of master drawings, the Thaws have also assembled significant collections of Native American art, bronzes from the Eurasian steppes, metalwork and jewelry of Migration-era tribes, nineteenth-century staircase models, and watercolors of interiors.

Eugene Thaw is also an active board member of many other cultural and education institutions throughout the United States and abroad. In 2003 he received the prestigious Hadrian Award from the World Monuments Fund in recognition of his work in advancing the preservation of world art and architecture.