

Exhibition: *Michelangelo, Vasari, and Their Contemporaries
Drawings from the Uffizi*

Press Preview: Thursday, January 24, 10 a.m. to NOON

Dates: **January 25 through April 20, 2008**

Summary: Nearly eighty masterpieces of Italian Renaissance drawing from Florence's Uffizi Gallery, including a number of rarely seen works, are on view only at The Morgan Library & Museum. *Michelangelo, Vasari, and Their Contemporaries: Drawings from the Uffizi* presents a survey of sixteenth-century Florentine draftsmanship from Michelangelo (1475–1564) and Pontormo (1494–1557) to Bronzino (1503–1572) and other mannerists such as Vasari (1511–1574) and Allori (1535–1607). Drawings by artists who worked on the frescoes, paintings, tapestries, and other decorative work that embellished the magnificent Palazzo Vecchio in Florence, initially the city hall and then home to the Medici dukes, are the main focus of the exhibition.

Content: One of the most impressive buildings in Florence, Palazzo Vecchio was the focal point of artistic activity throughout the sixteenth century, especially when Cosimo I de' Medici commissioned artist-historian Giorgio Vasari to design its expansion and decoration. The exhibition is divided into three sections that demonstrate how drawing functioned not only as a means of planning the elaborate palace decorations, but also a tool that shaped the creative process for Vasari and his contemporaries.

Section 1 – The Great Masters. Features works that preceded and inspired Vasari's intervention in the Palazzo; drawings by Michelangelo, Pontormo, and Andrea del Sarto (1486–1531), as well as Rosso Fiorentino (1494–1557), Salviati (1510–1563) and Bronzino.

Section 2 – Vasari and His Collaborators. Showcases Vasari's own drawings alongside those of his collaborators, such as Buontalenti (1513–1608), Stradanus (1523–1605), Santi di Tito (1536–1603), and Naldini (1537–1591), many of which are preparatory studies for the the Salone dei Cinquecento.

Section 3 – The Artists of the Studiolo. Includes works by painters who decorated the study, or Studiolo, of Francesco I de' Medici, Cosimo's son and heir, such as Allori (1535–1607), Macchietti (1535–1592), Maso da San Friano (1531–1571) and Poppi (1544–1597).

Catalogue: The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue written by Annamaria Petrioli Tofani with contributions by Rhoda Eitel-Porter.

Organization and Sponsors:

The exhibition is organized by special arrangement with the Soprintendenza Speciale per il Polo Museale fiorentino - Gabinetto Disegni e Stampe degli Uffizi and conceived by Annamaria Petrioli Tofani, former director of the Uffizi. It is curated by Rhoda Eitel-Porter, Charles W. Engelhard Curator and department head, Drawings and Prints, The Morgan Library & Museum.

This exhibition is made possible by The Alice Tully Foundation, with major support from the Estate of Alex Gordon.

CastleRock Asset Management is the corporate sponsor. Additional assistance is provided by the Joseph F. McCrindle Foundation and the Italian Cultural Institute of New York.

Education and Programs:

The Morgan offers a number of special programs held in conjunction with its exhibitions.

A full-day symposium on **Saturday, January 26, 2008** complements the exhibition with lectures by leading scholars, including Annamaria Petrioli Tofani, former director of the Galleria degli Uffizi; Rhoda Eitel-Porter, The Morgan Library & Museum; Janet Cox-Rearick, The Graduate Center, CUNY, New York; David Franklin, National Gallery of Canada; Larry J. Feinberg, Art Institute of Chicago; and Elizabeth Pilliod, Rutgers University.

Other programs include gallery talks and a family workshop. For more information, please contact the Education department at (212) 590-0333.

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. Nearly 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:

Located at 225 Madison Avenue between 36th and 37th Streets, the Morgan is 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 Monday 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.

For further information please contact Sandra Ho, Communications and Marketing department, (212) 590-0311, or at media@themorgan.org.