

The background of the entire page is a reproduction of a painting, likely by Raphael, depicting the Virgin Mary. She is shown from the chest up, wearing a white robe and a yellow veil. Her hands are clasped in prayer. The background is a soft, golden-brown color with faint stars.

MELBOURNE WINTER MASTERPIECES

ITALIAN MASTERPIECES

FROM SPAIN'S ROYAL COURT, MUSEO DEL PRADO

16 May – 31 August 2014

MEDIA KIT



(previous)
Giambattista Tiepolo
The Immaculate Conception
(*L'Immacolata Concezione*) 1767–69 (detail)
Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid (P00363)
Spanish Royal Collection

Guido Reni
Saint Sebastian (San Sebastiano) 1615–20
Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid (P00211)
Spanish Royal Collection

MELBOURNE WINTER MASTERPIECES ITALIAN MASTERPIECES FROM SPAIN'S ROYAL COURT, MUSEO DEL PRADO

NGV International | 16 May – 31 August 2014 | Admission fees apply

MEDIA RELEASE

The finest collection of Italian masterpieces ever to come to Australia will be unveiled at the National Gallery of Victoria on 16 May. Featuring important works by masters such as Raphael, Titian and Tiepolo, the exhibition represents an unprecedented opportunity in Australia to see extraordinary Italian works of art produced during the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries.

This Melbourne exclusive exhibition has been drawn from one of the world's most celebrated collections, the Museo del Prado, Madrid, and showcases over 100 works comprising 70 paintings, some measuring over 3 metres, alongside more than 30 superb drawings – the largest number of Italian works the Museo del Prado has ever loaned to one exhibition. The Honourable Heidi Victoria, Minister for the Arts, congratulated the Museo del Prado and National Gallery of Victoria on this unique collaboration and remarkable exhibition.

"The Italian Masterpieces exhibition features the finest Italian works ever to come to Australia. It is the first time the Prado has toured an exhibition of their renowned collection of Italian masterpieces anywhere in the world, making this without doubt a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for lovers of art.

We are thrilled that this world-first exhibition has been secured by the National Gallery of Victoria and will be seen exclusively in Melbourne," Minister Victoria said.

Director of the NGV, Tony Ellwood said that the holdings of Italian art in the Museo del Prado are unique and unrivalled in museums outside Italy, and importantly, many of these paintings have never before left Spain.

Mr Ellwood commented, "We are deeply grateful to the Prado for loaning such a significant collection of their works to our gallery. This remarkable exhibition will bring magnificent works from the heart of the Prado's collection, featuring the finest works from over 70 Italian masters including Raphael, Correggio, Titian, Tintoretto, the Carracci and Tiepolo.

To celebrate the exhibition we invite our visitors to enjoy our accompanying program of innovative programs and events, Italian and Spanish language tours, events for

children and families, performances, live music, lectures and tours that will all contribute to make this an exceptional experience," said Mr Ellwood.

Museo del Prado Director Miguel Zugaza added, "Museo del Prado is a privileged witness of the close historical, political and cultural ties that link Spain and Italy in the early Modern period. The 100-or-so works which will be travelling out of the Museum for the first time reflect the extraordinary quality and importance of the art made in Italy for the Spanish court from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. Through this astounding selection of masterpieces the National Gallery of Victoria's public will be able to appreciate the genius of the great artists of the Renaissance and Baroque periods and the Spanish crown's exceptional patronage tradition of Italian art."

In the sixteenth century, the Spanish ruler Emperor Charles V began a tradition of acquiring Italian paintings. Successive rulers also commissioned works directly from the artists in Italy or enticed them to Spain to work in the Royal Household.

Such is the scale of this exhibition that visitors will be able to trace the stylistic development of Italian art across three centuries drawn from Italy's key cultural centres including Rome, Venice and Naples.

This is the 11th Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition at the NGV since the series began in 2004 with *The Impressionists*. Since then, the series has attracted more than four million visitors, and has generated over \$318 million in economic benefits for the state.

Italian Masterpieces from Spain's Royal Court, Museo del Prado will be presented alongside *DreamWorks Animation: The Exhibition* at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image. Melbourne Winter Masterpieces is a Victorian Government initiative.

The exhibition is organised by the Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid, in association with the National Gallery of Victoria and Art Exhibitions Australia.

Italian Masterpieces from Spain's Royal Court, Museo del Prado will be on display at the National Gallery of Victoria from 16 May until 31 August 2014. Admission fees apply.

THE EXHIBITION

THE PRADO AND THE ROYAL COLLECTIONS OF SPAIN

For three hundred years, the art of Italy and Spain was inextricably linked and during this time Italian painting was fundamental to Spain's historical and cultural heritage. With much of Italy ruled by the King of Spain, Italian art brought prestige and glamour to the Spanish court, affirming Spain's pre-eminence in European culture.

The magnificent art collection of the Spanish Royal Family formed the basis of the Museo del Prado, which opened to the public in 1819. The Royal Family had been avid collectors of Italian art since the early sixteenth century when Emperor Charles V began acquiring Italian paintings. His son, King Philip II, also fell under the spell of Italian art and became the most important patron of the great Venetian master, Titian. At one stage the Royal Family held more than ninety paintings by Titian, unparalleled in any collection. Five of the works by Titian that remain in the Prado collection are being lent to the NGV for this exhibition.

Due to the sustained collecting of Italian art by the Royal Family, palaces and chapels throughout Spain were richly decorated with Italian paintings. Soon the taste for Italian art spread throughout the Kingdom and Spanish courtiers also acquired Italian art. Many works from these diverse sources have subsequently entered the Prado, making it one of the richest and varied collections of Italian art in the world. The taste for Old Master drawings also grew and the Prado now has over 8,000 works on paper in the collection with superb examples by artists who worked for the Royal Family over the centuries.

THE BUEN RETIRO PALACE

Some of the stunning artworks included in *Italian Masterpieces from Spain's Royal Court, Museo del Prado*, were commissioned to adorn the walls of the Buen Retiro Palace in Madrid, one of the most ambitious architectural projects ever seen in Europe to that date.

The Buen Retiro Palace complex was built not far from where the Prado is today, comprising an intricate network of around forty buildings set amidst lavish gardens.

Over 800 paintings by leading contemporary artists predominantly working in Spain and Italy were hung in the palace. Italian pupils of the Carracci, the Caravaggisti and foreign artists working in Italy were engaged to contribute paintings.

Several devastating fires ravaged the Palace, and much of it was destroyed during the Napoleonic era. Many works from the Palace survived and the Prado are graciously lending over a dozen works that once graced the Buen Retiro.

FROM THE HIGH RENAISSANCE TO THE ROCOCO

Works that had a major influence on the development of Spanish art and represent key trends in Italian art, from the High Renaissance of the sixteenth century to the Rococo of the late eighteenth century are reflected in the 105 works selected for this exhibition. Showcasing a diversity of styles and subjects, the works reflect the enlightened taste for art in Spain's Royal Court, as well as the eclectic tastes of Spanish royalty and nobility across three centuries.

Fittingly, *Italian Masterpieces from Spain's Royal Court, Museo del Prado* opens with Raphael's *Holy Family with Saint John or Madonna of the Rose* (c.1517), Raphael's quintessential High Renaissance masterpiece and his finest work to come to Australia. The exhibition closes with the spectacular, decorative works of late eighteenth-century artists including Giambattista Tiepolo. Between Raphael and Tiepolo sits a wealth of magnificent and important Baroque works by leading artists of their day, from the Caravaggisti to the Carracci.

SIZE AND SPECTACLE

Many of the works in *Italian Masterpieces from Spain's Royal Court, Museo del Prado* are of a phenomenal size and scale, some of them measuring over three metres in width.

Commissioned to adorn the walls of Royal palaces and churches, the aim of these spectacular paintings would have been to create an emotional response and, in the case of religious paintings, inspire devotion.



Raphael
Holy Family with Saint John or Madonna of the Rose (Sacra Famiglia con san Giovannino o Madonna della Rosa) c.1517
Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid (P00302)
Spanish Royal Collection



(left)
Titian
Philip II (Filippo II) 1551 (detail)
Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid (P00411)
Spanish Royal Collection



(above)
Bartolomeo Passarotti
Head of a figure (Testa di una figura) 1560–70
Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid
Fernández Durán Bequest, 1931 (D01781)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

A range of events, talks, forums, performances and special tours have been developed to coincide with the exhibition.

LIVE MUSIC

Daily
1pm & 2pm (20mins)

Enjoy rich Baroque and Spanish-inspired music performed live in the gallery spaces during Italian Masterpieces.

Cost Free, Exhibition fees apply
Venue Exhibition Space, Ground Level

DAILY OFFERINGS

Free guided tours and tailored audio guide with Vince Colosimo will be available to visitors. Pop-up floor talks from NGV curators and conservators will give background and insight into *Italian Masterpieces from Spain's Royal Court, Museo del Prado*.

For those who want to delve deeper into the history, themes and artistic movements of the exhibition, a five-week **LECTURE SERIES** presented by local art historians and industry experts will explore Italian art and Spanish patronage. A five-week **DISCUSSION GROUP** will give exclusive access to the exhibition after hours.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES can experience the exhibition with an engaging children's video guide and special labels which will take them on a journey to discover the life and art of the times.

Over the final ten weeks, visitors can view the exhibition after hours, enjoy talks, **ITALIAN AND SPANISH FOOD AND WINE** and a stellar line-up of **LIVE MUSIC** in the Great Hall as part of the **FRIDAY NIGHTS AT ITALIAN MASTERPIECES** late night series. Also on Friday evenings, visitors can experience the paintings come to life with music, dance and theatre performances.

SYMPOSIUM: ITALIAN MASTERPIECES FROM SPAIN'S ROYAL COURT, MUSEO DEL PRADO

Fri 16 May, 1.30pm

Join us for a variety of papers presented by international and local speakers. Topics will cover a wide range of themes related to the exhibition.

Speakers

Miguel Falomir Faus, Head of Italian and French Painting Department (after 1700), Museo del Prado, and guest co-curator; Andrés Úbeda de los Cobos, Senior Curator Italian and French Painting (to 1700), Museo del Prado, and guest co-curator; Associate Professor David Marshall, The University of Melbourne; and Laurie Benson, Curator International Art, NGV, and coordinating curator.

Cost \$35 A / \$28 M / \$30 C / \$15 S (includes light refreshments, bookings essential)

Venue Clemenger BBDO Auditorium, Ground Level

LECTURE SERIES: ITALIAN ART AND SPANISH PATRONAGE, 1500-1800

Sat 17 May–28 Jun (excludes Sat 7 Jun), 2pm

Presented by local art historians and industry experts, this six week lecture series explores the history of Italian art and Spanish patronage between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Cost \$20 A / \$16 M / \$18 C (per lecture), \$95 A / \$72 M / \$82 C (full series), bookings essential

Venue Clemenger BBDO Auditorium, Ground Level

DISCUSSION GROUP: ITALIAN ART AND SPANISH PATRONAGE, 1500-1800

Mon 19 May–Mon 30 Jun (excludes Mon 9 Jun), 5.30– 6.30pm

This six week Discussion Group follows on from topics discussed at the Saturday lecture series. Held in the exhibition space, the program gives participant's exclusive access to the exhibition after hours. Ideal for those who want delve deeper into the various themes and artistic movements surrounding the exhibition.

Cost \$51 A / \$42 M / \$45.50 C (per session), \$135 A / \$100 M / \$120 C (full series), bookings essential

Meet North Foyer, Ground Level (enter North entrance, via Arts Centre forecourt)

FRIDAY NIGHTS AT ITALIAN MASTERPIECES

FRI 27 JUN–FRI 29 AUG, 5.30–9.30PM

On Friday evenings view *Italian Masterpieces* after hours and enjoy talks, DJs, great food and wine, and a stellar line-up of bands and musicians:

27 Jun Kirin J Callinan

4 Jul Owl Eyes

11 Jul Mick Turner

18 Jul Teeth & Tongue

25 Jul The Orbweavers

1 Aug Dan Kelly

8 Aug The Audreys (duo)

15 Aug New Gods

22 Aug Ben Watt (solo)

29 Aug The Break

(featuring Brian Ritchie, and members of Hunters and Collectors and Midnight Oil)

Cost \$28 Adult Admission / \$23 Member Admission / \$10 Child Admission

Venue NGV International, Ground Level

Bookings Book early to avoid disappointment
ngv.vic.gov.au

FILM SERIES: ITALIAN CINEMATIC MASTERPIECES

Sun 6 Jul–Sun 31 Aug, 2pm

This eight week film series will celebrate some of the greatest Italian cinematic masterpieces created in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries .

Free

Venue Clemenger BBDO Auditorium, Ground Level

Visit ngv.vic.gov.au for more information on public programs.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

From early years to tertiary level, a diverse range of programs for students and teachers that embrace curriculum priorities and bring to life the richness of the art and the social, cultural and historical context in which it was created.

For further information:
www.ngv.vic.gov.au/learn/schools-programs

Booking fees apply. For bookings and enquiries
T 03 8620 2340, 12-5pm weekdays
E edu.bookings@ngv.vic.gov.au



Jacopo Ligozzi (attributed to)
A chimera (La chimera) 1590–1610
Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid (D01657)
Spanish Royal Collection

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

HANDS-ON WORKSHOP PROGRAMS including creating chimeras or fantasy creatures inspired by the extravagantly theatrical paintings in the exhibition.

IMMERSION PROGRAMS for students including drama workshops in the gallery inspired by works of Italian art in the NGV Collection, Spanish and Italian cultural days and an 'Old Masters, clever tricks' program in which students can learn the techniques used by the Old Masters.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION tailored to different year levels, students can explore the Christian religious tradition, belief, faith and history through works of art in the exhibition. Themes include the astounding lives of the Saints, depictions of Mary and the Life of Christ in art. Students will also be able to create their own self-portrait as a modern day saint, reflecting on how they might change things for the greater good.

ONLINE RESOURCES include an online gallery where students can share their creative art making, inspired by the exhibition and an *Italian Masterpieces* Junior Critics' Forum where students' responses to the exhibition are published and shared.

ITALIAN MASTERPIECES: ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS

PUBLICATIONS

Italian Masterpieces from Spain's Royal Court, Museo del Prado

304 x 255mm, 336 pages

Hardback, \$69.95

Paperback, \$39.95

This sumptuous publication presents works by more than seventy artists, including Michelangelo, Raphael, Correggio, Titian, Tintoretto, the Carracci, Poussin and Tiepolo. Their inclusion reflects the taste of the Spanish Royal Court, whose kings, queens, princes and courtiers avidly collected Italian art. Many of these works are at the heart of the Prado's collection. Featuring essays by internationally respected curators and writers, *Italian Masterpieces from Spain's Royal Court* is a panoramic volume that traces the astounding stylistic development of Italian art across three centuries.

Master the Arts! A kids' activity book about Italian Masterpieces

290 x 210mm, 116 pages

Paperback, \$19.95

For children aged 6 years and up

Hundreds of years ago, many master painters began their art careers when they were just kids. *Master the Arts!* is an activity book for kids and focuses on eight Italian masterpieces from the Prado's collection.

Filled with stories about the artists and people of the time, children will discover facts about art while having fun drawing pictures of angels, gladiators and action scenes inspired by Greek and Roman mythology. The children's drawings and creative work will turn this book into a masterpiece of its very own.

MERCHANDISE

The range features beautiful collectors' items including a decorative plate, fine bone China mugs, a tea for one set, coaster set, placemats, silk scarves and handkerchiefs. This collection features Guercino's *Cupid spurning riches* c.1654, Andrea Belvedere's *Flowerpiece* c.1694–1700, various floral still life works of Mario Nuzzi, Corrado Giaquinto's *Allegory of Justice and Peace* c.1753–54, and Titian's portrait of Philip II.

A range of fashion items are on offer including tights embroidered with specially designed motifs reminiscent of the Spanish Royal Court.

Beautiful paper products will be available, featuring many stunning works from the exhibition, including postcards, greeting cards, card pack, posters and notebooks.

ITALIAN FOOD AND WINE

Join us for exceptional Italian food and wine, inspired by the themes and history of *Italian Masterpieces*. Italian culinary classics are reinvigorated with a contemporary twist; such as delicate, sweet lasagna filled with chocolate and raspberry mousse at Italian Masterpieces High Tea in The Tea Room, or rolls filled with spit roast suckling pig at Friday Nights at Italian Masterpieces. Best enjoyed with a glass of Prosecco or a delicious Italian wine.

Visit: ngv.vic.gov.au/visit/places-to-eat

EXHIBITION INFORMATION

MELBOURNE WINTER MASTERPIECES ITALIAN MASTERPIECES FROM SPAIN'S ROYAL COURT, MUSEO DEL PRADO

16 May – 31 August 2014

NGV International

180 St Kilda Road

Open daily 10am–5pm

Entry fees apply

Adult \$26.00

Child \$10.00

Concession \$22.50

Family (2 adults + 3 children) \$65.00

NGV Member Adult \$21.00

NGV Member Family (2 adults + 3 children) \$50.00

Tickets on sale now from ngv.vic.gov.au

A dedicated microsite will provide detailed information on the exhibition. Visit ngv.vic.gov.au.

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Master the Arts! Activity Book about Italian Masterpieces is supported by Truby and Florence Williams Charitable Trust.

The exhibition is organised by Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid in association with the National Gallery of Victoria and Art Exhibitions Australia



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