



MELBOURNE WINTER MASTERPIECES

ITALIAN MASTERPIECES

from Spain's Royal Court
Museo del Prado

16 May - 31 Aug 2014

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NGV NEWS

11 November 2013

NGV announces 2014 Melbourne Winter Masterpieces



Today, Tony Ellwood, Director of the National Gallery of Victoria, together with the State Government of Victoria and Art Exhibitions Australia announced next year's Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition, *Italian Masterpieces from Spain's Royal Court, Museo del Prado*.

This Melbourne exclusive exhibition has been drawn from one of the world's most celebrated collections, Museo del Prado, Madrid, and will showcase over 100 works comprising 70 paintings, many measuring over 3m, alongside more than 30 superb drawings – the largest number of Italian works the Museo del Prado has ever loaned to one exhibition.

The Honourable Louise Asher, Minister for Tourism and Major Events, welcomed the exhibition as a major coup for Melbourne.

"This is the first time the Prado has toured an exhibition of their renowned collection of Italian masterpieces in the world. We are thrilled that Melbourne has secured this world first – providing visitors with an unprecedented opportunity to see works that, until now, could only be seen at the Prado.

"This will be 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* takes the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces initiative to new heights, once again placing Melbourne firmly on the international stage.

In 2014 we look forward to welcoming Victorians, interstate and international visitors to experience these unparalleled masterpieces," Minister Asher said.

Tony Ellwood said that the holdings of Italian art in the Museo del Prado, Madrid, are unique and unrivalled in museums outside Italy. *Italian Masterpieces from Spain's Royal Court, Museo del Prado* will present a rich selection of paintings and drawings spanning 300 years of Italian art, from the early sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries.

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"The exhibition will reflect the taste of the Spanish Royal Court whose Kings and courtiers avidly collected Italian art and will present more than 70 Italian masters including Raphael, Correggio, Titian, Tintoretto, the Carracci and Tiepolo.

Italian Masterpieces from Spain's Royal Court, Museo del Prado will captivate and amaze visitors, and will be complemented by a diverse range of engaging programs, lectures and events," Mr Ellwood said.

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. Many of these works are at the heart of the Prado's collection and have never before left Spain.

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.

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 in 2014.

Melbourne Winter Masterpieces is a Victorian Government initiative.

The exhibition is organised by the Museo 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.



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The Prado and the Royal Collections of Spain

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 16th 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. The Prado are generously lending a select group of paintings from their unparalleled holdings of Titian's work.

Much of Italy was ruled by the King of Spain and Italian art brought prestige and glamour to the Spanish court, affirming Spain's pre-eminence in European culture.



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Taste for Italian art in Spain

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.



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Themes

The Prado's remarkable holdings of Italian art are renowned for their high quality and depth, allowing all major facets of Italian art to be represented in this exhibition. Superb portraits, landscapes and still lifes sit alongside intimate genre scenes and spectacular history paintings. Through Spain and Italy's

shared tradition of Catholicism, religious art speaks most strongly of the close synergy between these two dynamic cultures. Therefore, the exhibition includes many beautiful and powerful images drawn from the Old and New Testaments as well as moving images of revered saints and martyrs.



General data

The Prado collection currently comprises around 7,600 paintings, 1,000 sculptures, 4,800 prints and 8,200 drawings, in addition to a large number of historic documents.

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Media content

The attached USB contains a selection of high-resolution imagery from the exhibition. The caption document is also available on the USB, and we request that you adhere to the copyright guidelines outlined in this document.

Timeline

16th century

1551 Philip II, King of Spain becomes Titian's most important patron. Titian will work for Philip II for the rest of his life



17th century

1630s Philip IV commissions the best contemporary Italian artists to create wonderful paintings for his newly built palace The Buen Retiro in Madrid



18th century

1769 The rich Spanish Court attracts the great Italian artist Giambattista Tiepolo to work in Madrid. His works decorate lavish palaces and churches



Image captions

(Cover)
Raphael
Italian c.1483–1520
Holy Family with Saint John or Madonna of the Rose (Sacra Famiglia con san Giovannino o Madonna della Rosa) c.1516 (detail)
oil on canvas
103.0 x 84.0 cm
Museo del Prado, Madrid (P00302)
Image courtesy Museo del Prado, Madrid

(Page 1)
Giambattista Tiepolo
Italian 1696–1770, worked in Spain 1762–70
The Immaculate Conception (L'Immacolata Concezione) 1767–69
oil on canvas
281.0 x 155.0 cm
Museo del Prado, Madrid (P00363)
Image courtesy Museo del Prado, Madrid

(Page 2)
Bartolomeo Passarotti
Italian 1529–92
Head of a man (Testa di un uomo) (c.1560–70) (detail)
pen and brown ink on blue paper
33.7 x 22.6 cm
Museo del Prado, Madrid (D01781)
Image courtesy Museo del Prado, Madrid

(Page 3)
Orazio Gentileschi
Italian 1563–1639, worked in England 1626–39
Saint Francis supported by an angel (San Francesco sorretto da un angelo) (c.1605–07)
oil on canvas
126.0 x 98.0 cm
Museo del Prado, Madrid (P03122)
Image courtesy Museo del Prado, Madrid

Titian
Italian c.(1485–90)–1576
Philip II (Filippo II) 1551
oil on canvas
193.0 x 111.0 cm
Museo del Prado, Madrid (P00411)
Image courtesy Museo del Prado, Madrid

(Page 4)
Jacopo Ligozzi (attributed to)
Italian 1547–1627
A chimera (La chimera) (1590–1610)
pen and brown ink, with brown wash, over black chalk, gold paint, white lead on paper
32.3 x 42.4 cm
Museo del Prado, Madrid (D01657)
Image courtesy Museo del Prado, Madrid

Viviano Codazzi
Italian (c.1604)–1670
Domenico Gargiulo (Micco Spadaro)
Italian (c.1609–10)–(c.1675)
Perspectival view of a Roman amphitheatre (Vista prospettica di un anfiteatro romano) (c.1638)
oil on canvas
220.5 x 352.7 cm
Museo del Prado, Madrid (P02632)
Image courtesy Museo del Prado, Madrid

(Page 5)
Andrea di Lione
Italian 1610–85
Elephants in a circus (Gli Elefanti in un circo) (c.1640) (detail)
oil on canvas
229.0 x 231.0 cm
Museo del Prado, Madrid (P00091)
Image courtesy Museo del Prado, Madrid

