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*Images available upon request*

## **Denver Art Museum to Debut Venetian Treasures in Fall 2016**

*Glory of Venice: Masterworks of the Renaissance* features paintings by Titian, Giorgione and Bellini rarely seen in the United States

DENVER – May 9, 2016 – The Denver Art Museum (DAM) is delighted to present *Glory of Venice: Masterworks of the Renaissance*, Denver's first-ever exhibition to illustrate the development of Venice's own distinct Renaissance style from the second half of the 1400s to the early 1500s. The exhibition explores the city's artistic evolution, as it shifted from a center of local significance, to the internationally recognized model of pictorial excellence admired by generations to follow. The exhibition will feature more than 50 significant works, including important loans from Venice's Gallerie dell'Accademia, which houses one of the greatest collections of Venetian Renaissance art in the world. A rare opportunity for visitors to experience these masterworks outside of Venice, the exhibition also features four Titians, two Giorgiones and six Giovanni Bellinis. *Glory of Venice: Masterworks of the Renaissance* is organized by the DAM and will be on view from Oct. 2, 2016 through Feb. 12, 2017 before traveling to the North Carolina Museum of Art.



Vittore Carpaccio, *Annunciation*, 1504. Oil on canvas; 50 × 54-3/4 in. Galleria Giorgio Franchetti alla Ca' d'Oro, Venice. Image Photographic Archive, Polo museale del Veneto, granted by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism. Reproduction approved for editorial use only.

The exhibition includes a core group of 19 artworks from the Gallerie dell'Accademia in Venice. These masterpieces will tell Venice's artistic story alongside pieces from the DAM's own collection and loans from institutions in the United States and Europe. These significant artworks include *Christ Carrying the Cross* by Giorgione, on loan from the Scuola Grande di San Rocco in Venice, and *Sacred Conversation* by Titian, from the Fondazione Magnani Rocca in Parma, Italy.

"We are pleased to present extraordinary paintings from the Gallerie dell'Accademia in Venice, an important institution, which has rarely lent such a significant group of work," said Christoph Heinrich, Frederick and Jan Mayer Director of the DAM. "By bringing these works together with signature paintings in DAM's collection, the exhibition engages audiences with the extraordinary creativity and artistic contributions of Venetians to the Renaissance movement."

Co-curated by Angelica Daneo, curator of painting and sculpture at the DAM, and Dr. Giovanna Damiani, former Superintendent of the Museums of the City of Venice and current Director of the State Museums of Sardinia, the exhibition focuses on one of the most exciting and dynamic moments in the artistic history of Venice and western painting in general, when artists forged a Renaissance style immediately recognizable as distinctly "Venetian." The new style ushered in a period of overwhelming creativity in Venice, inspiring artists across the continent.

The artists included in the show will share the spotlight with the Republic of Venice, as the city itself also played an integral role in the unique artistic results of the movement.



Titian, *Madonna and Child with Saints Catherine of Alexandria and Dominic, and a Donor*, about 1513. Oil on canvas; 53-7/8 × 72-1/2 in. Fondazione Magnani Rocca, Mamiano di Traversetolo, Parma, Italy. Courtesy of Fondazione Magnani Rocca, Mamiano di Traversetolo (Parma).

*“Glory of Venice: Masterworks of the Renaissance* highlights how Venice’s unique location and role in the Mediterranean, its cultural heritage and social structure, made it possible for the new Renaissance ideals to thrive and for artists, stimulated by the constant influx of rich and diverse influences, to experiment with new styles and compositions,” said Daneo. “The exhibition aims to create an immersive experience for audiences, evoking the magnificence of Venice in the late 1400s and early 1500s when ‘the mistress of the Mediterranean’ was already seducing its many visitors.”

Through key works by Vittore Carpaccio, Cima da Conegliano and other Renaissance masters, visitors will experience the art of some of the most influential Renaissance artists, whose sensitivity toward color and light remained unparalleled for centuries. Artworks in the exhibition will emphasize how masters during this period

veered from traditional techniques and began to incorporate oil paint into their creative process, a most flexible medium allowing them to experiment with depth, emotion and dimension in their work.

“This exhibition concentrates on the extraordinary and dynamic transition in Venetian culture from full adherence to Renaissance ideals to the embrace of a dazzling humanism and ultimately to the refined artistic language of the early Titian,” said Damiani.

*Glory of Venice: Masterworks of the Renaissance* will be on view in the Gallagher Family Gallery on level 1 of the Hamilton Building and included in general admission, free for members and youth 18 and under.

### **Exhibition Catalog**

A fully illustrated catalog, published by the DAM, will accompany the exhibition. Essays detailing *Glory of Venice: Masterworks of the Renaissance* will be included in the catalog by exhibition co-curators Angelica Daneo and Dr. Giovanna Damiani.

### **Exhibition Organizers and Sponsors**

*Glory of Venice: Masterworks of the Renaissance* is organized by the Denver Art Museum in collaboration with the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh. It is presented with generous support from Samuel H. Kress Foundation, Robert Lehman Foundation, The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, John Brooks Incorporated, the donors to the Annual Fund Leadership Campaign and the citizens who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities. Promotional support is provided by *5280 Magazine*, CBS4, Comcast Spotlight, and *The Denver Post*.

### **Media Resources**

Online Newsroom: [www.denverartmuseum.org/press](http://www.denverartmuseum.org/press)

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### **About the Denver Art Museum**

The Denver Art Museum is an educational, nonprofit resource that sparks creative thinking and expression through transformative experiences with art. Its holdings reflect the city and region—and provide invaluable ways for the community to learn about cultures from around the world. Metro citizens support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), a unique funding source serving hundreds of metro Denver arts, culture and scientific organizations. For museum information, call 720-865-5000 or visit [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org).

### **About the North Carolina Museum of Art**

The North Carolina Museum of Art’s permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making the institution one of the premier art museums in the South. The Museum’s collection provides educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The 164-acre Museum Park showcases the connection between art and nature through site-specific works of environmental art. The Museum offers changing national touring exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films and concerts.

The Museum opened West Building, home to the permanent collection, in 2010. The North Carolina Museum of Art, Lawrence J. Wheeler, director, is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, Pat McCrory, governor, and an agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Susan Kluttz, secretary.

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