

NEWS RELEASE

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MUSEUM MARKS EXPANSION WITH TWO NEW CATALOGUES AND EXPANDED HANDBOOK

On the occasion of the opening of its new 127,000-square-foot West Building, the North Carolina Museum of Art has produced three publications: a revision of *The North Carolina Museum of Art Handbook of the Collections, Seventeenth-Century Dutch and Flemish Paintings*, and *Rodin: The Cantor Foundation Gift to the North Carolina Museum of Art*.

Handbook of the Collections

The North Carolina Museum of Art Handbook of the Collections, an updated and expanded edition of the guide first published in 1998, chronicles the Museum's expansive holdings. With full-color images and substantive narratives on art and artists, this volume conveys over 5,000 years of artistic achievement represented in the Museum's collection, from ancient Egyptian art to recent commissions.

The publication opens with a foreword by Museum Director Lawrence J. Wheeler, followed by a text derived from roundtable discussions among the Museum's curators. The handbook then provides more than 260 substantive entries on individual works of art, encompassing all areas of the Museum's collection. Highlights include curatorial essays and new photography of some 50 recent acquisitions on view in the new building, representing purchases, promised gifts, and commissions.

The entries were written by current and former Museum curators and educators, including Virginia Burden, John W. Coffey, Joseph P. Covington, Jennifer Dasal, Linda J. Dougherty, Abram Kanof, Kinsey Katchka, Rebecca Martin Nagy, Huston Paschal, Caroline M. Rocheleau, Lauren H. Ryan, Mary Ellen Soles, David Steel, Chad Weinard, and Dennis P. Weller. References, an index, and credits complete the publication.

The North Carolina Museum of Art Handbook of the Collections is published in hardcover. It has 608 pages and more than 275 color illustrations. It will be available for \$65 through the Museum Store and the Museum's Web site.

The publication was made possible by a generous gift from Joan C. Huntley and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Seventeenth-Century Dutch and Flemish Paintings

Seventeenth-Century Dutch and Flemish Paintings, by Curator of Northern European Art Dennis P. Weller, is the first systematic catalogue devoted to one of the Museum's most important collections. The majority of the works in these outstanding collections were acquired as part of the State's original \$1 million appropriation of 1947, which made North Carolina the first state in the nation to set aside public funds to purchase an art collection in order to establish a museum. The original collection was largely shaped by the Museum's first director, W.R. Valentiner.

This volume consists of individual entries on all of the Museum's 77 Dutch and Flemish paintings of the seventeenth century. All are illustrated in full color and accompanied by black-and-white comparative illustrations. Among the masterpieces included are signature works by Jan Brueghel the Elder, Anthony van Dyck, Govert Flinck, Jacob Jordeans, Jan Lievens, Jacob van Ruisdael, Gerard Seghers, and Jan Steen.

In researching the collection for this volume, Weller made a number of discoveries of previous ownership, compositional changes made by the painters, and the identity of a handful of the portrait sitters. He also re-attributed and re-dated a number of works. In addition to this information, the catalogue includes biographies of the artists.

Museum Conservator Noelle Ocon authored the technical notes on each work. The catalogue was edited by independent art editor Fronia Simpson.

Seventeenth-Century Dutch and Flemish Paintings is published in hardcover and has 432 pages. It is available for \$45 through the Museum Store, the Museum's Web site and in select North Carolina bookstores.

Funds for the research and printing of the catalogue were provided by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, Thomas S. Kenan III, the Thomas S. Kenan Foundation, and others. It was printed by Classic Graphics, Morrisville, North Carolina.

Rodin: The Cantor Foundation Gift to the North Carolina Museum of Art

In 1999–2000, North Carolina Museum of Art Curator David Steel organized a comprehensive exhibition of more than 120 sculptures and drawings by Auguste Rodin. More than half of the works in the exhibition—which drew over 300,000 visitors—were drawn from the collection of the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation, the finest private collection of the master's works.

Thus began an increasingly close relationship that eventually led to the Foundation's generous donation of 29 sculptures by Rodin, along with a portrait bust of the master by his pupil and mistress, Camille Claudel, a talented artist in her own right.

Steel's book offers a comprehensive examination of the sculptures in the Cantor Foundation gift. It includes an introductory text on Rodin's life and artistic career, followed by individual entries on each of the 30 sculptures. Each work is illustrated in full color, and several entries also feature detail images in color. The book also includes a number of black-and-white comparative illustrations.

A noteworthy addition to the book is a documentary video, produced by Emmy award-winning videographer Art Howard. The video, which runs for roughly 30 minutes, tells the story of the Cantor gift—including interviews with benefactor Iris Cantor and Museum Director Lawrence J. Wheeler—and of the arrival, conservation, and installation of the Rodin collection in the new West Building and surrounding sculpture gardens.

Rodin: The Cantor Foundation Gift to the North Carolina Museum of Art is published in softcover and has 112 pages. The catalogue and accompanying DVD are available for \$20 through the Museum Store, the Museum's Web site, and in select North Carolina bookstores.

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