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18th-Century Prints and Collection Treasures at UNH Art Gallery Oct. 23 - Dec. 12

By [Tracy Manforte](#)
UNH News Bureau

DURHAM, N.H. -- A palette of creative works, from historic 18th-century prints to the heart of The Art Gallery's permanent collection, will be unveiled this month as the University of New Hampshire Art Gallery continues its fall season.

Two exhibitions, "Fantasy and Reality: Works by Eighteenth-Century Venetian Printmakers" and "History and Highlights: The Art Gallery's Permanent Collection," will be on display Oct. 23 through Dec. 12. A preview reception is planned Thursday, Oct. 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. Gallery admission and all related events are free and open to the public.

Complementing these new exhibitions is the popular ArtBreak Series, a noon-time cultural experience hosted by The Art Gallery. The series continues Wednesday, Oct. 27, with "Gorgeous George: Songs by George Gershwin," a concert performed by UNH assistant professors of music Michael Annicchiarico and David Ripley. Other ArtBreak events are included in the descriptions below.

Fantasy and Reality: Works by Eighteenth-Century Venetian Printmakers

Eighteenth-century Venice was an important center for the production of prints and illustrated books. "Venice was the last place in Europe to abandon Byzantine style and the last place to cast off the 'Old Master' tradition, yet it was the most cosmopolitan of European cities until its capitulation to Napoleon," says Patricia Emison, UNH associate professor of art history and the humanities. "It was the only place that managed to harmonize the idealism of Italian Renaissance art with the realism of the north."

Many artists made etchings originally intended to be bound sets, including Giovanni Battista Tiepolo and his son, Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo, Piranesi, Canaletto, and Bellotto. "Fantasy and Reality" features 33 prints on loan from the Davison Art Center at Wesleyan University.

Works on view include etchings from Giovanni Battista Tiepolo's two famous series, the *Capricci* and the *Scherzi de Fantasia*, two prints from Piranesi's series *Grotteschi*, nine of Canaletto's views of Venice and two large etchings of Dresden by Bellotto. Also on view are 10 etchings from the famous series *Flight into Egypt* by Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo.

The show coincides with the Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies' annual conference at UNH Dec. 9-12. UNH Professor Ed Larkin, chair of the conference planning committee, says the exhibition will complement major themes of the conference, specifically projects and inventions of the period. "The focus on Venetian printmaking draws upon a geographical area, which is only now receiving scholarly interest among 18th-century generalists," he says.

This exhibition was organized by Stephanie Wiles, curator of the Davison Art Center, Wesleyan University. Its presentation in Durham is supported by a grant from the UNH Class of 1954.

The following related events are part of the ArtBreak Series and will take place in The Art Gallery from noon to 1 p.m.:

- Reading from "Lost Geography" by the author and UNH English instructor Charlotte Bacon Wednesday, Nov. 10.
- Gallery walk with curator Wiles Wednesday, Nov. 17.
- Slide lecture, "Venice Through the Eye of a Needle: The Uses of Mood in Rococo Etching," by Professor Emison, Wednesday, Dec. 1.

History and Highlights: The Art Gallery's Collection

Out of public view much of the time, a museum's collection often goes unnoticed and under-appreciated. This exhibition offers visitors a chance to see what has been acquired by The Art Gallery and quietly treasured for nearly 50 years.

Although a relatively small collection, with 1,200 objects, these hidden jewels boast an impressive range and quality, according to Anne Goslin, assistant director of The Art Gallery, who researched the collection and selected the works for the show.

Goslin chose approximately 70 works to illustrate the collection's history and scope. Old favorites, such as Abbott Thayer's *Mount Monadnock* and Edwin Scheier's *Plate*, plus more recent acquisitions, such as Gaston Lachaise's *Standing Nude*, are included.

"Although we often exhibit works that we own, this is the first exhibition that looks at the collection's historical development, its range of styles and media, and its sources," says Vicki Wright, director of The Art Gallery. "We are most grateful to the many donors who have contributed to the growth of this fine resource for teaching and research here at the university."

Associated with this exhibition is a gallery walk with Goslin Wednesday, Nov. 3. Titled "History and Highlights: Behind the Scenes," the walk begins at noon. History and Highlights is funded in part by the Friends of The Art Gallery. Gallery hours are: Monday - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 - 5 p.m. The gallery is closed Fridays and university holidays, including Nov. 11 and Nov. 24-28. School and group tours are offered free with advance reservation and can be scheduled by calling the Outreach Program at 603-862-3713. For more information, call 603-862-3712 or email art.gallery@unh.edu.

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