

Selections from the Louis and Annette Kaufman Collection

This exhibition is drawn from the generous gift of 115 prints collected by Louis and Annette Kaufman. Louis Kaufman was a successful concert violinist, whose appearances took the couple to England, France, and Holland in the years immediately following World War II. There they pursued their passion for art as well as music, collecting the prints displayed here.

The prints included in the Kaufman gift fall into three main areas: old masters of the northern schools, satires, and British works around 1900. Among the old masters, Martin van Heemskerck is particularly well represented, with twenty-six prints including two complete series—in this exhibition represented by the artist's set of the seven planets. Heemskerck was a great admirer of Italian Renaissance style, which he brought back to the low countries by means of his many paintings and the more than 600 prints which he designed.

The satirists in the gift include works by Thomas Rowlandson, James Gillray, and Honoré Daumier, all hand colored in deluxe editions which still bear vibrant colors. Rowlandson and Gillray were both Londoners, and while Gillray satirizes British political and royal figures with unsparing jibes, Rowlandson more often pokes gentler fun at the common man. Daumier, an artist working in Paris, begins his career with heated political fusillades, but after French law was altered to suppress such free speech, he usually focused on the vagaries of his fellow Parisians. Here we are also able to show some of his satires of historical figures, including Hercules and Odysseus.

William Strang's work is also well represented in the Kaufman gift. He was one of several sophisticated British etchers around 1900, including Frank Brangwyn, who built upon the successes of Whistler. Strang's etchings cross genres and include sensitive portraits of many of his contemporaries, subtle landscapes, and darker, symbolist compositions.