



Mannerism in Italy and the Low Countries

February 14 to May 3, 2009 | Mayer Gallery

The Chazen Museum of Art is pleased to present an exhibition of mannerist works, mostly engravings, drawn primarily from its permanent collection.

During the fifteenth-century Renaissance, classical antiquity was big news. Artists followed discoveries of Greek and Roman sculpture and visited Rome to see the great antiquities collections, copying and perfecting the techniques and subject matter of the classical models. However, mannerist artists in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Italy and the Netherlands intentionally went against those classical ideals of beauty, proportion, and symmetry, moving away from the imitation of nature and toward the creation of a more expressive and spiritually charged style. This anticlassical approach to the human figure is characterized by distortion through elongation, torsion, exaggerated musculature, and irrational spatial relationships. Michelangelo's muscular figures on the Sistine Chapel exemplify the Renaissance master's early influence on the development of mannerism, also called the stylish style.

In Italy, artists including Giovanni Battista Scultori and his Manutan workshop helped to champion this new approach. In the north, especially in the Dutch city of Haarlem, mannerism flourished in the late sixteenth century when a group of artists in the circle of Hendrick Goltzius took the style in a slightly different direction from their Italian counterparts. Also inspired by classical Italian sources, Goltzius and his collaborator Bartolomeus Spranger, and eventually a larger group of artists, cooperated to design strikingly original works. Their novel compositions and distinctive style influenced graphic art, in particular, for centuries; the portraiture seen on most paper money descended directly from the work of these mannerist artists.

Generous support for this exhibition has been provided by the Chazen Museum of Art Council, Hilldale Fund, and Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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The Chazen Museum of Art is open Tuesdays–Fridays 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission to galleries and educational events is free. The museum is located on the campus of the University of Wisconsin–Madison and is accessible to wheelchairs from the north entrance (nearest to Library Mall). An elevator is down the corridor to the right.

Parking is available at the City of Madison State Street Campus Ramp (entrances on Frances and Lake streets) and in the University Square parking ramp, entrance on Lake Street. Metered parking is available in the lower level of UW Lot 46, entrances on Lake and Frances streets. Evening and weekend parking is also available in UW Lot 83 under Fluno Center, entrance on Frances Street, and in UW Lot 7 under Grainger Hall, entrance on Brooks Street between University Avenue and Johnson Street.

The Chazen will provide sign language interpreters for associated programs by three-week advance request to Anne Lambert, Curator of Education, weekdays, (608) 263-4421 (voice).

Gallery Talk

Related to "Mannerism in Italy and the Low Countries"

Maria Saffiotti Dale, curator of painting, sculpture, and decorative arts

March 8, 2009

From 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Second floor, Mayer Gallery