

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ST. PETE

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MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG BRINGS THE MASTERS OF THE ROMAN BAROQUE TO FLORIDA IN NEW TRAVELING EXHIBITION

More than 50 rarely seen works celebrate one of the brightest luminaries in the history of art, Gian Lorenzo Bernini, and dozens of his contemporaries

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (January 27, 2022) — The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg (MFA) is pleased to announce *Bernini and the Roman Baroque: Masterpieces from Palazzo Chigi in Ariccia*, an exhibition which celebrates the rich spectrum of genres and pictorial styles that characterize Baroque aesthetics and illuminates the influence of Gian Lorenzo Bernini within the movement. *Bernini and the Roman Baroque* is on view at the MFA from **February 12 through May 8, 2022**.

Reflecting an artistic energy that pulsed throughout Europe and inspired architects, artists, and urban planners across the globe, *Bernini and the Roman Baroque* embodies the magnificence and innovation that transformed Rome into the capital of the art world for centuries.

"This fascinating exhibition highlights Bernini's brilliance during the Baroque period," noted Senior Curator of Exhibitions and Collections Stanton Thomas, PhD. "Artworks are included not only by Bernini himself—embodying the Baroque ideals of intense drama, bold imagination, emotional engagement, and the activation of the viewer's space—but by dozens of his fellow artists. These rare paintings, prints, and decorative arts epitomize the period's ultimate goal of elevating the viewer in both mind and soul and engaging them fully with the art itself."

The term *Baroque* connotes rich detail, bold compositions, and a sense of drama—all hallmarks of an extraordinary generation of artists who converged in Rome at the dawn of the seventeenth century. This artistic style became a cultural phenomenon, spreading across Europe with major centers emerging in the Low Countries, France, Spain, and Italy, finally assuming its full global dimensions when it reached the

Americas and Asia. *Bernini and the Roman Baroque* explores the genesis of this artistic movement through a selection of 55 works from 40 artists.

“So many of us have felt isolated and confined by COVID-19, but this exhibition is a great reminder that art is an impactful and exciting way to explore the world without leaving our own community,” said MFA Executive Director and CEO Kristen A. Shepherd. “We’re thrilled to bring the Roman Baroque to our galleries with this exhibition – and we look forward to bringing other parts of the world to our visitors with our exhibitions and programs throughout 2022.”

Bernini and the Roman Baroque: Masterpieces from Palazzo Chigi in Ariccia is organized by Glocal Project Consulting and is toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC.

RELATED EXHIBITION PROGRAMS

(PLEASE NOTE: Due to the uncertainties related to COVID-19, program details are subject to change. Please check the museum’s event calendar at mfastpete.org/events-calendar/ for the latest information.)

[The Florida Orchestra Takeover of the MFA: Bach and the Baroque](#)

Sunday, February 13 | 2 pm & 3 pm | Free with museum admission

The Florida Orchestra returns to the museum to set the scene with Baroque music. TFO Concertmaster Jeffrey Multer leads a chamber ensemble in Johann Sebastian Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 and his Concerto for Oboe and Violin, featuring Mitchell Kuhn on oboe. The 30-minute program will be performed twice at 2 & 3 pm. Presented in partnership with The Florida Orchestra.

[Cinema at the MFA presents: *The Cardboard Bernini*](#)

Thursday, March 10 | 7 pm | Free with museum admission

This 2012 film is about the artist James Grashow, whose “Corrugated Fountain,” was inspired by Rome’s Trevi Fountain and the works of Bernini. Unlike Bernini’s monumental works that have graced museums and plazas for centuries, Grashow’s “Corrugated Fountain” was intended to be temporary, with its deterioration at the hands of Mother Nature part of the creative life of the piece.

[Cinema at the MFA presents: *Roman Holiday* | Costume Party & Prosecco Bar](#)

Sunday, April 10 | 12 pm - 4pm | \$20 for members; \$30 for not-yet members.

Channel your inner Audrey Hepburn or Gregory Peck as you enjoy a screening of the Academy Award-winning *Roman Holiday* (1953) and libations from our prosecco bar in the garden. Take inspiration from the iconic wardrobe of the film classic during our elegant prosecco and costume event. Make sure to arrive in timeless style!

ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG

The MFA at 255 Beach Drive NE is St. Petersburg’s first art museum, and houses the largest encyclopedic art collection in Florida. The collection includes

works of art from ancient times to the present day and from around the world, including ancient Greek and Roman, Egyptian, Asian, African, pre-Columbian, Native American, European, American, and contemporary art. The photography collection is one of the largest and finest in the Southeast. Kristen A. Shepherd is the Executive Director and CEO. For more information, please visit mfastpete.org and follow @mfastpete on social.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Francesco Petrucci, Chief Curator, Palazzo Chigi in Ariccia is an international authority on seventeenth- and eighteen-century art and architecture whose specialties also include archaeology, classical music, the decorative arts, and the restoration of monumental architecture. Petrucci graduated in 1983 from Rome's Sapienza University, where his doctoral thesis on the Palazzo Chigi of Ariccia was much honored. After supervising the restoration of the Palazzo Chigi in the '80s and '90s, he took over as its director in 1998. Since 2002, he has also served as professor emeritus in art history for Auburn University in the United States.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

Glocal Project Consulting has attracted and inspired audiences to both enjoy and interact with art and culture since 2004. In its first few years, Glocal Project Consulting provided management consultancy services, gaining in-depth knowledge of the art market and what it values most: (i) trustworthiness, (ii) punctuality, (iii) creativity, and (iv) flexibility. Now, having mounted over 50 successful exhibitions in Europe and South America, the company has an established reputation in the art world and plans to broaden its scope to other foreign markets, such as the UK, Northern and Eastern Europe, the Emirates, China, and other countries of the Far East.

International Arts & Artists in Washington, DC, is a non-profit arts service organization dedicated to increasing cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally, through exhibitions, programs and services to artists, arts institutions and the public. Visit www.artsandartists.org

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