

ACKLANDARTMUSEUM

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Chapel Hill, NC — A rare opportunity to engage with eighty master drawings by an extraordinary group of eighteenth-century French artists will become available this month at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as the Ackland Art Museum opens *Genius and Grace: François Boucher and the Generation of 1700* on 23 January 2015.

Genius and Grace presents exemplary drawings by twenty-seven accomplished artists who influenced the practices of art and draftsmanship for much of the eighteenth century. Their vision, combined with their enormous technical skill, ensured the full realization of the rococo—the bold, graceful, and fluid manner so characteristic of French art of the first half of the eighteenth century. The brilliant career of François Boucher, the best-known artist of his generation, is represented in the show by nineteen drawings. Other artists featured in the exhibition include Jean-Antoine Watteau, Jean-Baptiste Oudry, Charles-Joseph Natoire, Charles-Antoine Coypel, and Carle Vanloo.

A wide variety of drawings will be on display, from quick sketches to compositional studies, in a stunning range of media including red chalk, pen and ink, gouache, and pastel.



“Our presentation of *Genius and Grace* underscores the Ackland’s continuing interest in Old Master drawings in the European tradition,” says Ackland chief curator and interim director Peter Nisbet. “The allure of eighteenth-century France, the intimacy of the era’s drawings, and the sheer beauty of these works combine to form an outstanding opportunity for the Ackland.”

The Ackland Art Museum is the second of only two venues in the United States to present *Genius and Grace*, and the exhibition’s only venue in the Southeast. Drawn from the Horvitz Collection in Boston, the preeminent private collection of early French art in the United States, the show was on view at the Cincinnati Art Museum in the spring of 2014. At the Ackland, *Genius and Grace* will be on view from 23 January through 5 April 2015.

Engage with *Genius and Grace*

Adjacent to the exhibition, the Ackland will present an *Atelier du Dessin | Drawing Studio*, inviting visitors to try a wide variety of drawing tools, from chalk and pencil to an Etch-a-Sketch and iPad apps. “Whether the medium is traditional or contemporary, whether the approach is disciplined or

experimental, the drawn line still exerts a fundamental fascination,” says Nisbet. “This studio invites and encourages reflection on the role and potential of drawing today.”

A curated selection of French Baroque music—compositions from the musical generation of 1700—will be played in the *Genius and Grace* galleries.

A fully illustrated catalogue—edited by Alvin L. Clark Jr., Curator of the Horvitz Collection and the Jeffrey E. Horvitz Research Curator, Division of European and American Art, Harvard Art Museums—is available for purchase at the Ackland Museum Store for \$40 (\$34 for Ackland Members).

Interpretative materials for adults and children will be available in the galleries and at the front desk.



Also on View: *Eighteenth-century Drawings from the Ackland Collection*

Resonating with and complementing *Genius and Grace*, nine drawings from the Ackland’s distinguished and growing collection of eighteenth-century European art are on view in a separate installation. This presentation includes Italian drawings and works by major artists active in later decades, such as Jean-Honoré Fragonard and Jean-Baptiste Greuze.

SELECTED PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Art For Lunch Talks – FREE, Register at ackland.org

Wednesday, 28 January, 12:20 PM

“Painters are Poets: Genius, Inspiration, and Expression in French and Italian Drawing”

Mary Pardo, Art Department, UNC-Chapel Hill

Wednesday, 4 March, 12:20 PM

“Carle Vanloo, Mlle Clairon, and the Fearful Medea”

Mary Sheriff, Art Department, UNC-Chapel Hill

Dawn ‘til Dusk Community Day: Jour d’Amour

Saturday, 14 February, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Join us for a Valentine’s Day celebration of [mostly French] art and community, inspired by *Genius and Grace*. All ages are invited to make a card for a loved one, take a tour of the exhibition, and go on a love-themed scavenger hunt in the galleries during this all-day celebration. Details at http://tiny.cc/Dawn_til_Dusk_14Feb.

Many more free public programs related to *Genius and Grace*, including a film series, conversational exhibition tours, and all-ages programs may be found at ackland.org.

FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

The Ackland’s presentation of *Genius and Grace* and its accompanying programs have been made possible in part by the generosity of Thomas S. Kenan III, Josephine Ward Patton, Joan C. Huntley, Leena

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The Ackland Art Museum receives substantial operating support from the Office of the Provost of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The William Hayes Ackland Trust, The Ackland General Endowment, The Ackland Academic Program Endowment (including funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation), The Charles and Isabel P. Eaton Trust, The Henry W. Lewis Fund, The Charles J. Morrow III Endowment Fund, The Charles M. and Shirley Weiss Endowment Fund, The Ackland Security Endowment, and the Friends of the Ackland Art Museum.

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About the Ackland

The Ackland Art Museum is located on the historic campus of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Ackland's holdings consist of more than 17,000 works of art, featuring significant collections of European masterworks, twentieth-century and contemporary art, African art, North Carolina pottery, and folk art. In addition, the Ackland has North Carolina's premier collections of Asian art and works on paper (drawings, prints, and photographs). As an academic unit of the University, the Ackland serves broad local, state, and national constituencies.

Admission and Hours

Admission to the Ackland Art Museum is always free, with donations accepted.

The Ackland is open Wednesday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 PM. The Museum is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Location

The Ackland Art Museum is located on South Columbia Street, just south of East Franklin Street, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Detailed directions are available at www.ackland.org or by calling 919.966.5736.

Parking is available at several nearby municipal and private parking decks, and at meters on Franklin Street. Detailed parking information and a map are available at www.parkonthehill.com.