

18 November 2019

## ***The Wallace Collection announces inaugural loans with the National Gallery***

- For the first time in its 119 year history, the Wallace Collection will lend works on a temporary basis.
- The first loan from the museum will be Titian's *Perseus and Andromeda*, which will join the National Gallery's forthcoming exhibition ***Titian: Love, Desire, Death***, reuniting the artist's six great mythological paintings for the first time since the late 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- In return, the National Gallery will lend to the Wallace Collection Rubens's *A View of Het Steen in the Early Morning*, where it will be displayed with its companion piece, Rubens's *Rainbow Landscape*, for the first time in over two hundred years.

Following the landmark decision to lend works from the Wallace Collection on a temporary basis, the museum is delighted to announce that its inaugural loan will be Titian's *Perseus and Andromeda*, which will join the National Gallery's forthcoming Titian exhibition in Spring 2020. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to see the artist's six great mythological paintings, known as the 'poesie', together for the first time since the late 16<sup>th</sup>-century.

In return, the National Gallery will loan Rubens's *A View of Het Steen in the Early Morning* to the Wallace Collection, where it will be displayed alongside its companion piece, Rubens's *Rainbow Landscape* from May-September 2020. Both pieces were painted by Rubens for his own pleasure and remained in his personal collection until his death. The paintings were separated in the early 19<sup>th</sup>-century and they will be reunited at the Wallace Collection for the first time in over two hundred years, in partnership with VISITFLANDERS.

António Horta-Osório, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, said:

"Working in partnership with research institutions, nationally and internationally, in order to contribute to important art historical projects sits at the heart of the Wallace Collection's strategy, [Making Culture Matter](#). Our collaboration with the National Gallery speaks directly to this critical aim, and the Board of Trustees is thrilled that the Collection will be able to participate in these historically significant reunifications."

Dr Xavier Bray, Director of the Wallace Collection, said:

"I am delighted that we are able to help the National Gallery to bring together Titian's magnificent 'poesie', enabling visitors to see the complete commission for the first time in over 400 years. In return, we are excited to reunite Rubens's *A View of Het Steen in the Early Morning* with his *Rainbow Landscape* at the Wallace Collection, which were always intended to be seen as a pair. This is an unprecedented moment in art history, made possible by the Wallace Collection's decision to lend works for the first time."

Dr Gabriele Finaldi, Director of the National Gallery, said:

"For the first time in over four centuries, thanks to the Wallace Collection's loan of Titian's *Perseus and Andromeda*, all of the artist's late 'poesie' mythologies will be seen together. And for the first time in over two centuries, Rubens's two great late landscapes will be seen together. The beneficiary is the general public."

Peter De Wilde, Chief Executive, VISITFLANDERS, said:

"The timing of this unique exhibition at the Wallace Collection coincides with VISITFLANDERS' purchase of the castle at Elewijt – also known as the 'Rubens Castle' – where Rubens chose to enjoy his retirement, and to continue to paint, for pleasure. The reunification of these two outstanding works of art, painted by Rubens and depicting the Flemish landscape surrounding his castle, has been a dream of art lovers for many years. This exhibition will uncover new facets into the life of this internationally renowned Flemish Master, and will undoubtedly inspire visitors to travel and discover more about Rubens in his homeland, Flanders."

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### **Notes to Editor**

For further press information please contact Eleanor Nimmo on [press@wallacecollection.org](mailto:press@wallacecollection.org) / 0207 563 9516

### **Opening hours**

Open daily 10am-5pm.

### **Social Media**

Join the conversation here:

Instagram: [@wallacemuseum](https://www.instagram.com/wallacemuseum)

Facebook: [@wallacecollection](https://www.facebook.com/wallacecollection)

Twitter: [@WallaceMuseum](https://twitter.com/WallaceMuseum)

### ***Titian: Love, Desire, Death***

**16 March – 14 June 2020**

**Main Floor Galleries**

**Admission charge**

**Exhibition organised by the National Gallery, the National Galleries of Scotland, the Museo Nacional del Prado and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum**

Six of Titian's greatest works, his epic series of large-scale mythological paintings, the 'poesie', will be brought together for the first time since the late sixteenth century at the National Gallery next March.

Painted between about 1551 and 1562 the 'poesie' are among the most original visual interpretations of Classical myth of the early modern era and are touchstone works in the history of European painting for their rich, expressive rendering.

The series was commissioned by Philip II of Spain, who highly unusually gave Titian an open brief to select his subjects. The paintings depict stories from Classical mythology, primarily drawn from

the Roman poet Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Because he considered them visual equivalents to poetry, Titian called them his 'poesie'. He distilled in them the knowledge of painting and visual storytelling that he had acquired over five decades as an artist to create some of his most profound statements on human passion and irrationality, on love and death.

From the original cycle of six paintings, the exhibition will reunite *Danaë* (1551-3, The Wellington Collection, Apsley House); *Venus and Adonis* (1554, Prado, Madrid); *Diana and Actaeon* (1556-9) and *Diana and Callisto* (1556-9), jointly owned by the National Gallery and the National Galleries of Scotland; and the newly conserved *Rape of Europa* (1562) from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston.

*Perseus and Andromeda* (1554-1556, The Wallace Collection, London), also from the cycle, and the National Gallery's own *Death of Actaeon* (1559-75), originally conceived as part of the series, but only executed much later and never delivered, will also be included in London.

### **About the Wallace Collection**

The Wallace Collection is one of the most significant collections of fine and decorative arts in the world and the greatest bequest of art ever left to the British Nation. The collection encompasses old master oil paintings from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century including works by Titian, Velazquez, Rubens and Van Dyck, princely arms and armour, and one of the finest collections of French 18<sup>th</sup>-century art in all media.

[www.wallacecollection.org](http://www.wallacecollection.org)

### **About the National Gallery**

The National Gallery is one of the greatest art galleries in the world. Founded by Parliament in 1824, the Gallery houses the nation's collection of paintings in the Western European tradition from the late 13<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The collection includes works by Bellini, Cézanne, Degas, Leonardo da Vinci, Monet, Raphael, Rembrandt, Renoir, Rubens, Titian, Turner, Van Dyck, Van Gogh and Velázquez. The Gallery's key objectives are to enhance the collection, care for the collection and provide the best possible access to visitors. More at [nationalgallery.org.uk](http://nationalgallery.org.uk).

### **About VISITFLANDERS**

VISITFLANDERS is the official government agency for the Dutch-speaking northern region of Belgium. The region of Flanders has boasted a rich art heritage since the Middle Ages and inspired the famous art movements of the time with old masters ranging from the early Primitives, Renaissance to Baroque. For over 250 years, Flanders was home to some of the most influential artists in Western Europe. Artists such as Jan van Eyck, Pieter Bruegel the Elder and Peter Paul Rubens were some of the greatest master painters, of all time and their legacies form the basis on which its "Flemish Masters" programme has been based on. Today, the region boasts a multitude of world-class museums, galleries and art centres and a wealth of art events, throughout the year.

[www.visitflanders.com](http://www.visitflanders.com)

Image sheet



Titian, *Perseus and Andromeda*, probably 1554-56, Italy, Oil on canvas.  
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Peter Paul Rubens, *The Rainbow Landscape*, c.1636, Flanders, Oil on oak panel.  
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