

## NEWS RELEASE

2200 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102 Phone: 402-342-3300 Fax: 402-342-2376 www.joslyn.org

For Immediate Release  
May 24, 2018

Contact: Amy Rummel, Director of Marketing and Public Relations  
(402) 661-3822 or arummel@joslyn.org



## TREASURES OF BRITISH ART 1400–2000

### The Berger Collection

Exceptional paintings from the largest private  
collection of British art in America

(Omaha, NE) – *Treasures of British Art 1400–2000: The Berger Collection* presents a rare opportunity to view one of the most important collections of British art in America. The paintings in this exhibition tell the complex history of Great Britain and how matters such as religious conflict, the rise and fall of the monarchy, industrialization, trade expansion, colonialism, and European

influences shaped British artistic identity. With such a breadth of historical material and a diverse representation of subject matter, there is something for everyone to enjoy in this remarkable exhibition.

*Treasures of British Art 1400–2000: The Berger Collection* is organized by the Denver Art Museum. The exhibition is made possible by the Berger Collection Educational Trust. *Treasures of British Art* opens to the public at Joslyn Art Museum on Saturday, June 2, and continues through Sunday, September 9.

#### About the Berger Collection

Beginning in the mid-1990s, mutual fund financier William M.B. Berger and his wife, Bernadette, set out to assemble a collection of British art that would reflect the historical and cultural significance of Great Britain. In the course of three years, they amassed over 200 works dating from the mid-14th century to the present day, providing a remarkable survey of the development of art in Britain. In 1999, the Bergers created The Berger Collection Educational Trust and placed their vast collection on long-term loan to the Denver Art Museum (DAM), transforming the institution's holdings of European painting.

add 1-1-1-1

*Treasures of British Art 1400-2000: The Berger Collection at Joslyn Art Museum*

In recent months, the Trust has gifted 65 paintings from the collection to DAM. *Treasures of British Art* showcases 50 masterworks from this unique collection, many of them part of the gift to DAM, charting the course of British painting over six centuries. The diverse selection includes religious works, history paintings, portraiture, landscapes, and sporting scenes by both famous and less well-known artists, including Anthony van Dyck, Thomas Gainsborough, Benjamin West, Angelica Kauffman, John Singer Sargent, and James McNeill Whistler, among others. Selected highlights:



### Landscape

Already in the eighteenth century, increasing numbers of British artists traveled abroad to explore foreign landscapes and new subject matter. As part of the Grand Tour, Rome was the ultimate destination for artists seeking to experience the riches of antiquity and the Renaissance first hand. Over the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, rising imperialism and exploration resulted in travel to more distant locations such as the

Middle East, North Africa, and Asia. Scottish artist David Roberts toured Spain, Morocco, Egypt, and the Near East, producing extensive topographical views of the locations he visited. He painted this landscape following a visit to Italy in 1853, the final stop on his travels before returning to London that same year. Although many of Roberts' views are topographically correct, this image of St. Peter's Basilica, in which much of the bustling city of Rome is omitted, is the result of the artist's rich imagination.

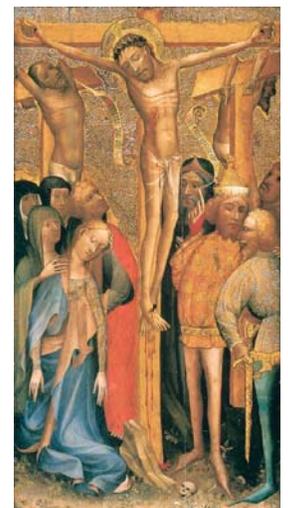
### Sporting Art

From the 17th to 19th century, sporting scenes — representations of rural pastimes like hunting, games, and horseraces — were a distinguishing feature of British artistic identity. Horses became enormously popular among aristocratic sportsmen who commissioned portraits of their prized animals. Although largely self-taught, George Stubbs is considered one of Britain's greatest horse painters for his ability to combine rigorous anatomical accuracy with sensitive observation of his subjects. This painting depicts a majestic bay hunter, an ideal horse for hunting across open country, standing before a gently receding landscape.



### Religion

When Henry VIII broke with the Roman Catholic Church and established the Church of England in 1534, religious images that had once been regarded as instruments of devotion became suspect for their potential to be used as idols and were subsequently removed from churches and monasteries. Out of more than 30,000 lost altarpieces, this stunning panel is among the few to have survived the widespread destruction of such imagery during the English Reformation. This painting of Christ's crucifixion is one of the most important objects in the Berger Collection and is currently the best-preserved religious panel painting of its period in existence. William M.B. Berger considered it the linchpin of his collection and faced fierce competition on the market when he purchased it in 1997.



### Portraiture

When the patronage of religious art decreased dramatically because of the emergence of Protestantism, secular subject matter, including portraiture, increased in popularity among the royal court and aristocracy. Foreign artists with international reputations were most popular for such commissions and consequently immigrated to England to work for the crown, exercising enormous influence on the development of the visual arts in Britain. Flemish artist Anthony van Dyck arrived in London in the early 17th century and is credited with revolutionizing the British portrait

add 2-2-2-2

*Treasures of British Art 1400–2000: The Berger Collection* at Joslyn Art Museum

tradition. As court painter to Charles I (reigned 1625 to 1649), Van Dyck portrayed his subjects with the elegance and virtuosity of Italian Renaissance painters, providing prestige and distinction to court culture of the period. In this work, the widowed Lady Dacre holds a double-headed rose that signifies both lost and future love in the fading and blooming blossoms.

## Modern Art



The social and technological advances of the late 19th and early 20th centuries as well as two world wars compelled artists to address the complexities of the modern world, resulting in a profusion of artistic styles and expressive concerns. Influenced by French artistic achievements of the period, specifically the Neo-Impressionist technique known as pointillism, Claude Francis Barry focused on shimmering cityscapes illuminated by fireworks. This painting represents the celebration held in London on July 19, 1919, to commemorate the end of World War I. Employing small dots of color, Barry featured the spectacular fireworks display over the important London landmarks of Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, and Westminster Bridge.

IMAGES: (PAGE 1) Benjamin West (1738–1820), *Queen Charlotte*, ca. 1776, oil on canvas, The Berger Collection at the Denver Art Museum, TL-19057; (PAGE 2, TOP TO BOTTOM) David Roberts (1796–1864), *St. Peter's, Looking Back on Rome*, 1855, oil on canvas, Gift of the Berger Collection Educational Fund, 2018.17; George Stubbs (1724–1806), *A Saddled Bay Hunter*, 1786, oil on panel, Promised Gift of the Berger Collection Educational Fund, TL-18021; British School, *The Crucifixion*, ca. 1395, tempera and oil with gilded tin relief on oak panel, Promised Gift of the Berger Collection Educational Fund, TL-18011; Sir Anthony van Dyck (1599–1641), *Dorothy, Lady Dacre*, ca. 1633, oil on canvas, Promised Gift of the Berger Collection Educational Fund, TL-18887; (PAGE 3) Sir Claude Francis Barry (1883–1970), *Victory Celebrations*, 1919, oil on canvas, The Berger Collection at the Denver Art Museum, TL-24828, Reproduced by kind permission of Amyl Holdings SA, owners of the worldwide copyright to the works of Sir Claude Francis Barry, Bart. 1883–1970

## Exhibition Catalogue

The exhibition catalogue for *Treasures of British Art: 1400–2000: The Berger Collection* is available in Joslyn's Hitchcock Museum Shop for \$45 (Member price: \$40.50).

## Exhibition Tickets and Tours

*Treasures of British Art* is a ticketed exhibition: \$10 for general public adults; \$5 college students with ID (tickets for those with a UNMC student ID are free); free for members and youth ages 17 and younger. Special Thursday pricing (4–8 pm): \$5 for general public adults. All visitors, including members, must obtain a ticket at the admissions desk for entrance to the exhibition. Programs with visits to the exhibition will be priced accordingly for general public adults. Docent-guided tours of the exhibition are offered weekly (ticket pricing applies; view the calendar of events at [www.joslyn.org](http://www.joslyn.org) for tour offerings).

## Exhibition Mobile Tour

Free Wi-Fi is available in all Joslyn galleries. Guests may use their own web-enabled mobile device or borrow one of Joslyn's to access the dual language *Treasures of British Art* mobile tour. Dial (402) 881-3601 for English or (402) 972-4031 for Spanish; or visit [www.joslyn.org](http://www.joslyn.org) > Education > Multimedia; or scan the QR code at the entrance to the exhibition; or read the audio script, available for hearing impaired visitors (access it through the web app). Presented by Joslyn and OnCell with special thanks to 91.5 KIOS FM.

## Exhibition Programs & Events

Friday, June 1; 5:30–8 pm

### *Members Preview Reception*

On Friday evening, June 1, members are invited to a private discussion and reception celebrating *Treasures of British Art*. At 6 pm, Dana E. Cowen, Ph.D., Joslyn's associate curator of European art, will offer an overview of the show in the

## Presenting Sponsor



## Major Sponsor



First National Bank

## Contributing Sponsor



Additional support provided by  
Wiesman Development



add 3-3-3-3

*Treasures of British Art 1400-2000: The Berger Collection* at Joslyn Art Museum

Witherspoon Concert Hall. The presentation will be followed by exhibition viewing, complimentary light hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar in the fountain court. Joslyn members receive invitations. To join Joslyn, visit [www.joslyn.org](http://www.joslyn.org).

**Saturday, June 2; 6:30 pm**

***Joslyn Art Museum Association Gala – SOLD OUT!***

The Joslyn Art Museum Association (JAMA) presents this special gala preview of *Treasures of British Art*. Guests will enjoy a cocktail reception and private exhibition viewing followed by a plated, British-themed gourmet culinary experience in a beautifully decorated tent outside on the Museum grounds (tent is air-conditioned). The evening also includes an oral auction of luxury jewelry items and a lively after party. Formal Attire. Honorary Chairs: Diny & Jim Landen. Event Chairs: Brady & Ryan Gibson. JAMA President: Kate Grabill. Presented by Gunderson's.

**Thursdays, June 21 and August 16; 6:30 pm (cash bar @ 5 pm)**

***Curator Gallery Talks***

Free with regular exhibition admission (special Thursday evening pricing of \$5 per ticket for general public adults). Join Dana E. Cowen, Ph.D., associate curator of European art, for a look at the highlights of the *Treasures of British Art*.

**Friday, July 13; 7–11 pm**

***Brilliant! A Royal-Themed Drag and Dance Party***

Ages 21 and over. \$10 for Joslyn members; \$20 for General Public (includes special exhibition ticket). Cash bar. Advance reservations are strongly encouraged at [www.joslyn.org](http://www.joslyn.org).

On Friday, July 13, lords and ladies reign supreme at a regal drag show and dance party celebrating *Treasures of British Art*. The evening begins with exhibition viewing and cash bar at 7 pm. Joslyn's Café Durham will be open, offering small plate selections for purchase throughout the evening. At 8 pm, join emcee Joe DeSanti as the royal highnesses strut the stage, showing off their most splendid glitz and glam. Following the runway show, all subjects take to the floor for a dance party. *Brilliant!*

**Thursday, July 26; 5–7 pm**

***Omaha Under the Radar***

Contemporary performance festival featuring live music and dance, with a new work inspired by *Treasures of British Art*. Free. Details to come at [www.joslyn.org](http://www.joslyn.org).

**Thursday, August 30; 6:30 pm**

***Time for Tea***

"The Art of Victorian Tea" with tea expert Mona Christensen. Advance registration required at [www.joslyn.org](http://www.joslyn.org): \$40 Joslyn members; \$60 General Public (includes full tea service and exhibition ticket).

**Thursday, August 30 @ 6:30 pm (cash bar @ 5 pm)**

Free public lecture: *"The Madness of King George's Academy: Painting and Politics in 18th-Century England"* with *British art scholar John Wilson, Ph.D.*

This talk is free, however, those wishing to see the *Treasures of British Art* exhibition must obtain an exhibition ticket (special Thursday evening pricing of \$5 per ticket for general public adults).

**Saturday & Sunday, September 1 & 2**

***Free College Weekend***

During regular public hours (10 am to 4 pm) on Saturday and Sunday, September 1 and 2, anyone with a valid college ID will receive free tickets to *Treasures of British Art*. Regular ticket price for college students is \$5 (tickets for those with a UNMC student ID are always free).

add 4-4-4-4

*Treasures of British Art 1400-2000: The Berger Collection* at Joslyn Art Museum

Thursday, September 6; 6:30 pm (cash bar @ 5 pm)

**Film Screening: *Monty Python and the Holy Grail***

A British slapstick comedy about King Arthur and his knights in search of the Holy Grail. Tickets at [www.joslyn.org](http://www.joslyn.org) or at the door: \$5 Joslyn members; \$10 General Public.

### Other Programs at Joslyn

Many of Joslyn's regularly scheduled programs will feature *Treasures of British Art*-inspired themes this summer. Visit [www.joslyn.org](http://www.joslyn.org) for complete details.

- **Stroller Tours** (Wednesday, June 20): Joslyn offers docent-guided tours designed for moms, dads, and caregivers to look at and talk about art with other adults, while being mindful of young ones in arms and strollers. Guests gather on the Strauss Bridge at 9:30 am for complimentary refreshments, then head to the galleries at 10 am for tours of Joslyn's collections and exhibitions. Crying babies welcome! On June 20, the tour will feature the *Treasures of British Art* exhibition. Free for Joslyn members and infants/toddlers; \$10 for general public adults (includes exhibition ticket). Space is limited; reservations are requested. Sign-up at least one week in advance at [www.joslyn.org](http://www.joslyn.org) > Visit > Kids Programs.
- **Art Encounters** (Thursday, June 21; 10:30 am): Art lovers, from the well-seasoned to the amateur, will enjoy a docent-guided tour of the *Treasures of British Art* exhibition. \$10 general public adults; \$5 college students with valid ID (UNMC students are free).
- **Art Camps and Classes**  
Joslyn offers drawing classes and camps for all ages this summer, many inspired by *Treasures of British Art*. Online class registration is available; Joslyn members receive discounted registration. Visit [www.joslyn.org](http://www.joslyn.org) > Education > Classes



**JOSLYN**  
Art Museum

**Our Mission** — Joslyn Art Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the visual arts of the highest quality, fostering appreciation and enjoyment of art for the benefit of a diverse audience.

**Our Vision** — To be cherished and respected as a premier art museum.

Joslyn Art Museum showcases art from ancient times to the present. The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, café, shop, and Art Works, an interactive space for art exploration.

**General Museum Admission:** Free (additional charge for general public adult and college student tickets to *Treasures of British Art: 1400-2000: The Berger Collection*; see page 3).

**Regular Museum Hours:** Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am-4 pm; late 'til 8 pm on Thursday; closed Monday and major holidays.

**[www.joslyn.org](http://www.joslyn.org) | (402) 342-3300 | 2200 Dodge Street | Omaha, NE 68102**