

YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART

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Paul Mellon Centennial Celebrations

This spring the Yale Center for British Art celebrates its thirtieth anniversary and commemorates the centennial of the birth of its founder, Paul Mellon (1907–1999; Yale College Class of 1929), with a special exhibition showcasing his extraordinary collection of British art, the largest outside the United Kingdom. *Paul Mellon's Legacy: A Passion for British Art* will be on view at the Center April 18–July 29, 2007. A selection of approximately 150 masterpieces from the exhibition will travel to the Royal Academy of Arts, London, where they will be on view October 20, 2007–January 27, 2008.

In addition to the exhibition, the Paul Mellon Centennial will be celebrated at Yale University and beyond through a rich slate of exhibitions and programs.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please refer to the Web sites of the individual institutions provided below to confirm titles, dates, and reservation information.

YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART

Giles Waterfield will deliver the 2007 Paul Mellon Lectures, *For an Excellent Purpose: Museums and Their Publics in Britain from 1850–1914*, on April 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, and 11, 2007. He is an independent curator and writer, Director of Royal Collection Studies organized by the Attingham Trust, Associate Lecturer at the Courtauld Institute of Art, a former trustee of the Heritage Lottery Fund, and former Director of the Dulwich Picture Gallery. Organized by the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, the lectures are the seventh in a series given biennially by an invited specialist in British art.

Also at the Center, Duncan Robinson, Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge, and former director of the Yale Center for British Art, will give the opening lecture for *Paul Mellon's Legacy: A Passion for British Art* on April 17. Jules D. Prown, Paul Mellon Professor Emeritus of the History of Art and founding director of the Center, will speak on "Light and Truth: Louis Kahn's Center for British Art" on May 2. William Reese, President of William Reese Company, an antiquarian book firm, will discuss Mr. Mellon as a collector of rare books and manuscripts on May 9.

The National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., is producing a fifty-minute biographical film that will be shown at the Center from May 25 through the end of July. Entitled *Paul Mellon: In His Own Words*, the film draws on archival footage of the Mellon family, interviews, speeches, and a variety of writings in which Mr. Mellon describes his passions, pursuits, and such interests as family, art, collecting, horses, and racing. In

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addition, during New Haven's International Festival of Arts and Ideas (June 9–23, 2007), the Center will offer an eight-part film series in honor of Paul Mellon's great interest in and love of horse racing.

The Center will also host a number of gallery talks and tours related to the Centennial. Thirty-minute Art in Context talks presented by Center curators will take place on Tuesdays at 12:30 pm. On April 24 Elisabeth Fairman, Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts, will present *The Mapmaker's Art: Treasures from Paul Mellon's Collection*; on May 1 Angus Trumble, Curator of Painting and Sculpture, will present "The Self-Portrait" by George Stubbs; on May 8 Scott Wilcox, Curator of Prints and Drawings, will present "A Collector of Collections": *Paul Mellon and British Drawings*; and on May 15 Gillian Forrester, Associate Curator of Prints and Drawings, will present *A Wonderful Range of Mind: Turner in the Mellon Collection*.

On Saturdays, May 12, 26, June 30, July 14, 28, and August 11, the Center will present "Conversations with the Collection" docent-led tours. These forty-five minute talks focus on a few works from the permanent collection that are thematically related, are favorites of the speaker, or invite more than one interpretation. Audience participation is encouraged.

www.yale.edu/ycba

Traveling Centennial Exhibitions Organized by the Yale Center for British Art

NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY, MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

Reflections on a Life with Horses: Paintings by Sir Alfred Munnings from the Paul Mellon Collection at the Yale Center for British Art

April 20, 2007–March 29, 2008

To commemorate Paul Mellon in the community where he lived and enjoyed his horses for many years, the National Sporting Library will display sixteen equine paintings by Sir Alfred Munnings, on loan from the Yale Center for British Art.

www.nsl.org

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, RICHMOND

Great British Watercolors from the Paul Mellon Collection at the Yale Center for British Art

July 11–September 30, 2007

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) has organized "Celebrating Paul Mellon," a series of exhibitions and programs that will honor Mr. Mellon's contributions to his adopted state. Coorganized by the Yale Center for British Art and the VMFA, *Great British Watercolors* will present eighty-eight exemplary watercolors painted between 1750 and 1850. A catalogue published by the Center and the VMFA in association with Yale University Press will accompany the installation. It will travel to the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia (October 23, 2007–January 13, 2008) and will return to the Yale Center for British Art (May 29–August 17, 2008).

www.vmfa.state.va.us

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ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, LONDON

A Passion for British Art, 1700-1850: Paul Mellon's Legacy

October 20, 2007–January 27, 2008

This exhibition features approximately 150 masterpieces from the Paul Mellon Collection at the Yale Center for British Art and has been coorganized by the Center and the Royal Academy of Arts.

www.royalacademy.org.uk

STATE HERMITAGE MUSEUM, ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

Great British Watercolors from the Paul Mellon Collection at the Yale Center for British Art

October 23, 2007–January 13, 2008

The exhibition has been coorganized by the Yale Center for British Art and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond. It will return to the Yale Center for British Art (May 29–August 17, 2008).

See VMFA above for exhibition details.

www.hermitagemuseum.org

Celebrations at the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art and Yale University

PAUL MELLON CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN BRITISH ART, LONDON

The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art (PMC) will support programming associated with *A Passion for British Art, 1700-1850: Paul Mellon's Legacy* while it is on view at the Royal Academy of Arts. Later in the year, the PMS will launch the publication of *George Stubbs, Painter—A Catalogue Raisonné* by Judy Egerton.

www.paul-mellon-centre.ac.uk

BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY

The Road to Yorktown

June 18 – August 31, 2007

The exhibition highlights selections from the Rochambeau Papers and Family Cartographic Archive, given to the library by Paul Mellon in 1992.

www.library.yale.edu/beinecke

STERLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY

Paul Mellon (1907-1999): Yale Student, Friend, and Benefactor

March 16– May 15, 2007

Yale's Sterling Memorial Library will feature an exhibition that will draw upon Yale University Archives and focus on Mr. Mellon's undergraduate years and his subsequent benefactions to the University. In conjunction with the exhibition Sterling Library will offer a program featuring Yale faculty and staff who worked with Mr. Mellon.

www.library.yale.edu

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YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

Art for Yale: Acquisitions for a New Century

September 18, 2007—January 13, 2008

The Yale University Art Gallery will showcase more than 275 exceptional works of art donated to, promised to, or purchased by the Gallery as part of a special campaign to expand the collection, an initiative that commenced in 1998 with Paul Mellon's extraordinary gift of *John Biglin in a Single Skull*, the 1873 watercolor masterpiece by Thomas Eakins. Paul Mellon's support of the Gallery continues even after his death, with recent gifts of art from his estate, including paintings by Paul Cézanne, Pierre Bonnard, and Edouard Vuillard, and a superb brown wax sculpture of a dancer by Edgar Degas, which will all be featured in *Art for Yale*. The exhibition will represent all of the Gallery's curatorial departments. It will also include never-before exhibited works by major artists. A celebration of the exhibition is planned for October 11, 2007.

artgallery.yale.edu

Related Centennial Exhibitions and Programs

BODLEIAN LIBRARY, OXFORD UNIVERSITY

An Honourable Friend: Paul Mellon's Gifts to the Bodleian

October 5–27, 2007

This exhibition will showcase the extraordinary gifts made by Paul Mellon to the Bodleian Library.

An Honourable Friend will focus on the manuscripts and books of the seventeenth century English philosopher John Locke, whose collections were brought together in the Bodleian Library thanks to the vision and generosity of Paul Mellon.

www.bodley.ox.ac.uk

CHRISTIE'S LONDON, KING STREET

Christie's will host two lectures in London: *Paul Mellon as I knew Him* by John Baskett, friend and art advisor to Paul Mellon, on November 13 at 7 pm; and *Paul Mellon, The Collector* by Duncan Robinson, Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge and former director of the Yale Center for British Art, on November 20 at 7 pm. The lectures are presented in conjunction with *British Art Week Autumn* at Christie's (November 15–22, 2007). For reservations please contact Flora Hesketh at 00 44 207 389 2515, or e-mail fhesketh@christies.com.

www.christies.com

HAZLITT, GOODEN & FOX, LONDON

From October 19–November 9, 2007, Hazlitt, Gooden & Fox will host a loan exhibition of works on paper from the collection of the Mellon Financial Corporation to coincide with *A Passion for British Art, 1700–1850: Paul Mellon's Legacy*, on view at the Royal Academy in the fall of 2007.

www.hazlittgoodenandfox.com

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THE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Paul Mellon: A Cambridge Tribute

June 12–September 23, 2007

To mark the centenary of Paul Mellon's birth, the Fitzwilliam Museum is mounting an exhibition that illustrates his many ties to the United Kingdom. It traces his love of British art and sport to the formative years he spent as an undergraduate at Clare College Cambridge, 1929–31. Comprising works from the museum and from Mr. Mellon's own collection lent by the Yale Center for British Art, the exhibition focuses both on his personal taste and on the reasons that led to the formation of his definitive collection of British art. Festivities will be organized in association with Clare College, which Mr. Mellon attended from 1929 to 1931, following his graduation from Yale.

www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

LOWELL LIBSON LTD., LONDON

Beauty and the Beast

October 22 –November 23, 2007

Celebrating the achievements of perhaps the greatest of British draftsmen and humorists, this exhibition will open a window on life in late Georgian Britain. *Beauty and the Beast* will bring together some forty-five works, including watercolors, drawings, prints, and manuscripts from private collections throughout Great Britain, including some that have never been exhibited previously. A fully illustrated catalogue with essays by James Fenton, Hugh Belsey, and John Baskett will chart Rowlandson's career as well as his reputation over the last two centuries.

www.lowell-libson.com

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, GHENT, BELGIUM

British Vision: Observation and Imagination in British Art, 1750-1950

October 6, 2007–January 13, 2008

www.mskgent.be

THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Eugène Boudin at the National Gallery of Art

March 25–August 5, 2007

(On view at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, November 14, 2007–January 27, 2008)

This exhibition includes forty-one paintings and works on paper by French impressionist Eugène Boudin. The images are drawn from the Gallery's extensive collection of works by the artist, acquired primarily through gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon.

J.M.W. Turner

October 1, 2007–January 6, 2008

(On view at the Dallas Museum of Art, Texas, February 10–May 18, 2008, and at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, June 24–September 21, 2008)

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The largest and most comprehensive retrospective of Turner's work ever presented in the United States includes approximately seventy oil paintings and seventy works on paper.

SPECIAL INSTALLATION: Paul Mellon and the National Gallery of Art

May 18–September 10, 2007

This thematic archival installation includes rarely seen documents, photographs, memorabilia, and publications that illumine Paul Mellon's life and art collecting, his leadership and ideas, and his generosity.

Paul Mellon: In His Own Words

June 9 at 1 pm and June 10 at 5 pm

This one-hour biographical film celebrating the spirit and philosophy of Paul Mellon premieres on June 9. The narration draws on archival footage of the Mellon family, interviews, speeches, and a variety of writings in which Mellon describes his passions, pursuits, and such interests as family, art, collecting, horses, and racing.

Beginning in May, the National Gallery of Art will present concerts, lectures, Gallery talks, and *Paul Mellon: In His Own Words* relating to Paul Mellon, his gifts, his life, and his legacy. Highlights include a Benny Goodman-style jazz concert by "Eddie Daniels and His Ensemble" at 3 pm on June 10. In addition, a special Web feature is being planned and will be announced when it goes online in late spring 2007.

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www.nga.gov/mellon

TATE BRITAIN, LONDON

British Sporting Art: Works presented by Paul Mellon

October 13, 2007–February 10, 2008

This display marks the centenary of the birth of the art collector, benefactor, and philanthropist Paul Mellon (1907–1999). It presents works from the outstanding group of eighteenth and early nineteenth-century sporting pictures presented to the Tate by Mr. Mellon through the British Sporting Art Trust in 1979. The selection, including paintings by George Stubbs, Jacques Laurent Agasse, and Benjamin Marshall, reflects Mr. Mellon's passion for sporting pictures and his lasting contribution to the study and appreciation of British art.

www.tate.org.uk/britain

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, CHARLOTTESVILLE

The Harrison Institute and Small Special Collections Library

University of Virginia Library

Treasures from Paul Mellon's Library

May 15, 2007–January 2, 2008

www.lib.virginia.edu/small

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VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, RICHMOND
Géricault to Bonnard: Recent Gifts from the Mellon Collection
Opens June 13, 2007

Faces at the Races: The Equine Culture in Virginia
September 6, 2006–January 7, 2007

The First Impressionist: Eugène Boudin
November 14, 2007–January 27, 2008

In conjunction with the centennial celebration, VMFA will publish *Country Pursuits: Sporting Art from the Mellon Collections at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts* (anticipated publication date April 2007). Written by former VMFA Mellon Curator Malcolm Cormack, this major catalogue of sporting works from the Mellon British, French, and American collections is copublished by VMFA and UVA Press, which will also distribute the book.

www.vmfa.state.va.us

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