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Italy and its Influence: Works on Paper from the Joseph B. and Ann S. Koepfli Trust

Ann Koepfli, a long-time patron and past President of the Board of Trustees, shares her exquisite taste and connoisseurship of Old Master works on paper among her collection of gifts to the museum. Ms. Koepfli's lifetime interest in art fortified her collecting activities, and her earning a Master degree in art history from the University of California at Santa Barbara under the direction of distinguished art historian Alfred Moir. We celebrate Ms. Koepfli's generosity with an exhibition of selected Renaissance and Baroque drawings alongside works inspired by Italy.

Italy has long been a site of creativity for artists. In the Renaissance, it was a place where artists engaged with the classical ideal in the rediscovery of antiquity in the form of ancient text, sculpture and architecture. Northern artists began travelling to Italy in the fifteenth century to witness Roman ruins and sculpture. By the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the number of German, Netherlandish and Dutch artists making sojourns south increased to the point at which they established their own artistic communities in Rome and Venice. After their *Wanderjahre*, the period when artists traveled to learn techniques and styles from specific cultural centers and artists, most northern artists returned home drawing and painting with an Italianate style. In bringing together Old Master drawings and etchings from the Joseph B. and Ann S. Koepfli Trust, this exhibition points to the cross-cultural exchange between Italy and the North.