

THE EUROPEAN PAINTING AND SCULPTURE COLLECTION

The European collection comprises 1,500 paintings, sculptures, prints, and drawings from the 14th through 19th centuries. The heart of the collection is a group of 37 works given by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation in 1961. Highlights of the Kress Collection include early Italian devotional paintings; an important *cassone* panel (ca. 1470) by Paolo Uccello; a sketch (1620) for the ceiling of Jesuit Church in Antwerp by Peter Paul Rubens; and Giambattista Tiepolo's ceiling fresco (ca. 1757) for the Porto family palace in Vicenza, along with the artist's oil sketch for it (ca. 1757).

Other highlights include a rare French portrait by the seventeenth-century Flemish master Sir Anthony van Dyck, showing *Pomponne II de Bellièvre* (1640-41); Abraham Janssens' *The Origin of the Cornucopia* (ca. 1619), a powerful example of northern Caravaggism; a Spanish altarpiece, *The Presentation of the Rosary to Saint Dominic* (ca. 1679-88), by Antonio Palomino; and *Boys Blowing Bubbles* (1640s) by one of the few female artists of the baroque period, Michaelina Woutiers.

Among the sculptural highlights are a masterpiece by Massimiliano Soldani representing *The Lamentation over the Dead Christ* (ca. 1714) and Jean Antoine Houdon's unsentimental yet sensitive portrait of his daughter, *Sabine Houdon at Age Four* (1791).

European painting and sculpture are displayed within an installation that gives equal play to our fine collection of decorative arts, including a 16th century wood-paneled room from northern Italy and a stunning installation in the Porcelain Room of 1,000 porcelains from SAM's collection. Throughout the European galleries, the curators have seized opportunities to show European works with art from other cultures or periods where meaningful. For example, the Porcelain Room includes examples of Asian porcelain that inspired European production, and the Uccello *cassone* panel, containing scenes from the Roman epic *The Aeneid*, is shown with ancient armor, medals, and coins to suggest the Renaissance fascination with the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome.

Curated by Chiyo Ishikawa, Deputy Director for Art and Curator of European Painting and Sculpture.