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Antico's Rare Renaissance Sculpture Goes on View at National Gallery of Art, Washington, in First Show of His Work in United States, November 6, 2011–April 8, 2012



Pier Jacopo Alari-Bonacolsi called Antico
Seated Nymph, model created and cast probably 1503
bronze with gilding and silvering
Robert H. and Clarice Smith

Washington, DC—Pier Jacopo Alari Bonacolsi, known as Antico (c. 1455–1528), transformed the art of bronze sculpture. His contributions are celebrated in ***Antico: The Golden Age of Renaissance Bronzes***, the first monographic exhibition in the United States devoted to the Italian sculptor and goldsmith. On view at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, from November 6, 2011, through April 8, 2012, the exhibition includes some 40 rare works—medals, reliefs, busts, and Antico's renowned statuettes—more than three-quarters of the sculptor's known works.

In 2008–2009, the first monographic exhibition on Antico was presented at the

restored apartments of Isabella d'Este in the Ducal Palace in Mantua, Italy.

"The late Robert H. Smith, former president of the Gallery, was one of the keenest admirers and collectors of Antico's work, and his vision and generosity have made the Gallery a leader in the study of Renaissance bronzes," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art. "The exhibition and accompanying catalogue are dedicated to Bob's memory and serve as a tribute to his leadership as a collector and philanthropist."

Exhibition Organization and Support

Antico: The Golden Age of Renaissance Bronzes was organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, in association with The Frick Collection, New York, where it will be on view from May 1 through July 29, 2012.

The exhibition is made possible by the generous support of Robert H. and Clarice Smith.

It is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

The exhibition is part of *ITALY@150*, a series of activities in Washington, DC, and throughout the United States that celebrates the 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy and the long-lasting friendship between the two countries.

The Exhibition

The exhibition presents 37 masterpieces by Antico, grouped thematically and installed with related works by fellow Gonzaga court artist Andrea Mantegna (c. 1431–1506), Giovanni Bellini (c. 1430/1435–1516), and others.

Antico's earliest known work in the exhibition is an elegant portrait medal representing his patron, Gianfrancesco Gonzaga (c. 1479–1482), wearing contemporary clothing. In a later medal, he is portrayed as an ancient figure, wearing antique-style Roman drapery.

The exhibition includes Antico's finest statuettes, such as the *Seated Nymph* (1503, Robert H. and Clarice Smith), a beautiful example of the rich interplay of gilded,

General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets at Constitution Avenue NW, and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. For information call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's Web site at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ngadc.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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