The Morgan Library & Museum Presents Fall 2019 Exhibition Program

New York, NY (July 11, 2019) – The Morgan Library & Museum presents its program of exhibitions for Fall 2019. Whether exploring the world of opera with an in-depth look at Italy’s pre-eminent composer Giuseppe Verdi, showcasing rarely seen charcoal portrait drawings by John Singer Sargent, examining the drawings of the virtuoso draftsman Guercino, or tracing the career of contemporary photographer Duane Michals, the Morgan is proud to host a variety of upcoming exhibitions that illuminate the dynamism of the creative process. Exhibition descriptions are provided below and on the following pages.

Verdi: Creating Otello and Falstaff—Highlights from the Ricordi Archive

September 6, 2019 through January 5, 2020

After Aida in 1871, except for occasional projects, Giuseppe Verdi (1813–1901), Italy’s pre-eminent composer, retired from opera at the age of 58. This, however, did not prevent constant pleas from his publisher, Giulio Ricordi (1840–1912), and his future librettist, Arrigo Boito (1842–1918), for the maestro to return to the operatic stage. Reluctantly coaxed out of retirement, Verdi composed what would become the crowning achievements of his career: Otello, premiered in 1887, and Falstaff, in 1893. Based on The Enterprise of Opera: Verdi. Boito. Ricordi, created by Bertelsmann/Ricordi and curated by Gabriele Dotto, the exhibition at the Morgan is the first in the United States to present rare documents and artifacts from Milan’s
Ricordi Archive, offering visitors insight into the production of these two operas as well as the complex enterprise of bringing an opera to life. Set designs, costumes from Milan’s Teatro alla Scala, autograph manuscripts, contracts, publications, publicity, video excerpts from recent productions, and other objects in many media permit visitors to experience the tremendous collaborative efforts behind an operatic production.

*Verdi: Creating Otello and Falstaff—Highlights from the Ricordi Archive* is organized by the Morgan Library & Museum, New York in cooperation with Bertelsmann/Ricordi Archive.

The exhibition is based on *The Enterprise of Opera: Verdi, Boito, Ricordi*, created by Bertelsmann/Ricordi Archive and curated by Gabriele Dotto. The curator of the exhibition at the Morgan is Fran Barulich, Mary Flagler Cary Curator and Department Head, Music Manuscripts and Printed Music at the Morgan Library & Museum.

Lead funding for this exhibition was generously provided by the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation.

**John Singer Sargent: Portraits in Charcoal**

*October 4, 2019 through January 12, 2020*

John Singer Sargent (1856–1925) was one of the greatest portrait artists of his time. While he is best known for his powerful paintings, he largely ceased painting portraits in 1907 and turned instead to charcoal drawings to satisfy portrait commissions. These drawn portraits represent a substantial, yet often overlooked, part of his practice, and they demonstrate the same sense of immediacy, psychological sensitivity, and mastery of chiaroscuro that animate Sargent’s sitters on canvas. *John Singer Sargent: Portraits in Charcoal* is a long overdue celebration of Sargent’s achievements as a portrait draftsman. Important international loans, from both public and private collections, showcase Sargent’s sitters, many of them famous for their roles in politics, society, and the arts. The exhibition also explores the friendships and the networks of patronage that underpinned Sargent’s practice as a portrait draftsman in Edwardian Britain and Progressive Era America.

This exhibition is made possible with lead funding from the Jerome L. Greene Foundation.

Corporate Sponsor
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Generous support is provided by the Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. Horowitz Foundation for the Arts, Inc., the Christian Humann Foundation, and Barbara G. Fleischman, with assistance from the Wyeth Foundation for American Art.

Guercino: Virtuoso Draftsman
October 4, 2019 through February 2, 2020

Giovanni Francesco Barbieri (1591–1666), known as Guercino, was arguably the most interesting and diverse draftsman of the Italian Baroque era, a natural virtuoso who created brilliant drawings in a broad range of media. Supreme examples of virtually every genre of drawing produced in seventeenth-century Italy survive from his hand: academic nudes, genre scenes and caricatures, energetic and fluid pen sketches for figures and compositions, highly refined chalk drawings, designs for engravings, and landscapes of many types. The Morgan holds more than thirty-five drawings by Guercino but has never before mounted an exhibition focused on the artist or shown so many of the drawings together. Guercino: Virtuoso Draftsman highlights the richness of the Morgan’s collection, and with the addition of a few loans offers an overview of Guercino’s brilliance as a draftsman across a career that spanned half a century.

The exhibition is made possible with generous support from the Eugene V. and Clare E. Thaw Charitable Trust.
Illusions of the Photographer: Duane Michals at the Morgan

October 25, 2019 through February 2, 2020

Contemplative, confessional, and comedic, the art of Duane Michals exerts an appeal that transcends the conventional audience of photography. Since the early 1960s, Michals has worked past what he sees as the limitations of the camera: he writes in the margins of his prints, creates sequences of images that explore intangible human dilemmas (doubt, mortality, desire), and derives poetic effects from technical errors such as double exposure and motion blur. Illusions of the Photographer combines a full career retrospective—the first on Michals to be organized by a New York City museum—with an artist’s-choice show, as Michals plumbs the Morgan’s vaults for treasures both revered and long-forgotten. Michals leads viewers on a tour of his mind as he engages heroes and mentors as varied as William Blake, Edward Lear, and Saul Steinberg and matches wits with stage designers, toy makers, and his fellow portraitists of the past and the present.

The exhibition is accompanied by screenings of short films, Michals’s preferred medium in recent years. An audio guide narrated by the artist complements a wide-ranging interview in the exhibition’s catalogue.

Illusions of the Photographer: Duane Michals at the Morgan is made possible by the support of The Thompson Family Foundation.

About the Morgan Library & Museum
A museum and independent research library located in the heart of New York City, the Morgan Library & Museum began as the personal library of financier, collector, and cultural benefactor Pierpont Morgan. The Morgan offers visitors close encounters with great works of human accomplishment in a setting treasured for its intimate scale and historic significance. Its collection of manuscripts, rare books, music, drawings, and works of art comprises a unique and dynamic record of civilization, as well as an incomparable repository of ideas and of the creative process from 4000 BC to the present.

The Morgan Library & Museum | 225 Madison Avenue | 212.685.0008 | themorgan.org
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