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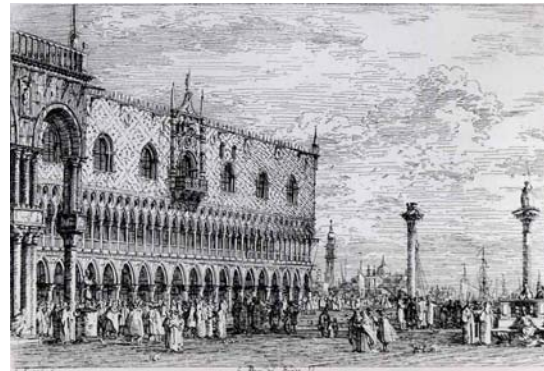
NEW #: 443-573-1870

BMA PRESENTS *CITY REAL AND IDEAL* EXHIBITION

Prints from 15th to 18th century reveal cities of the past

BALTIMORE, MD (October 11, 2006)—From the crumbling marvels of ancient Rome to the urban grandeur of Baroque Paris, the great cities of Europe have long captured our historical imagination. *The City Real and Ideal*, on view **October 11, 2006–March 11, 2007**, brings together approximately 50 printed images of European cities—from 15th-century woodcut book illustrations to large-scale 18th-century etchings—to explore how artists such as Albrecht Dürer, Canaletto, and Giovanni Battista Piranesi imagined and interpreted the urban landscape.

Between 1500 and 1800, cities were increasingly the centers of European wealth, power, and cultural achievement. This same period was witness to the development and flourishing of printing, a technical innovation that radically changed the way imagery was produced, circulated, and used. Drawn primarily from the BMA's collection, the exhibition will explore urban imagery from two points of view: the growing interest in accurate documentation—the real—and the treatment of the city space as symbol and metaphor—the ideal.



Canaletto. *Piazza San Marco with the Ducal Palace*. The Baltimore Museum of Art: Gift of General Lawrason Riggs.

Inspired by the BMA's exhibition, the nonprofit organization Art On Purpose developed Real City, Dream City, a project that used art to empower communities to seek change for their neighborhoods. Photography workshops held in 10 Baltimore City neighborhoods last spring allowed residents of all ages to discuss the artworks from the exhibition and to explore the good, bad, and possible of their own communities. Community forums, local exhibitions, and other advocacy activities followed, and the project will culminate in a public symposium to be held at the BMA on January 27, 2007. Selected images were made into postcards and will be on view in an album in the exhibition.

This exhibition is guest curated by Elizabeth Rodini, BMA Adjunct Associate Curator of Prints, Drawings & Photographs, and Associate Director of the Program in Museums and Society and Senior Lecturer in History of Art, The Johns Hopkins University.

The City Real and Ideal is generously supported by Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Newhall III and The Johns Hopkins University.

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THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914, the BMA's outstanding collection encompasses 90,000 works of art, including the largest and most significant holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world, as well as masterpieces by Pablo Picasso, Paul Cézanne, and Vincent van Gogh. An expanding collection of contemporary art features iconic post-1960 works by Andy Warhol and Sol LeWitt, as well as exciting acquisitions by artists such as Kara Walker and Olafur Eliasson. The BMA is also recognized for an internationally acclaimed collection of prints, drawings, and photographs from the 15th century to the present; grand European painting and sculpture from Old Masters to the 19th century; distinguished American painting, sculpture, and decorative arts and Maryland period rooms; one of the most important African collections in the country, and notable examples of Asian, ancient American, and Oceanic art. The BMA's sculpture gardens feature a 100-year survey of modern sculpture on nearly three landscaped acres.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Beginning October 1, general admission to the BMA will be free. Special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m.- 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. -6 p.m.; and during the first Thursday of every month (except major holidays), 11 a.m. -9 p.m. The Museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located on Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31st Streets, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit www.artbma.org.

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