

## **MAJOR GIFT ESTABLISHES CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF DRAWINGS AT THE COURTAULD**

The Courtauld Institute of Art is delighted to announce a major philanthropic gift of £600,000 from the International Music and Art Foundation to create the **IMAF Centre for the Study and Conservation of Drawings** at The Courtauld Gallery.

Ranging from the early Renaissance to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, The Courtauld Gallery's collection of 7,000 drawings and watercolours is one of the very finest of its kind in the United Kingdom. It includes masterpieces by artists ranging from Dürer and Michelangelo to Cézanne and Picasso. Numerous other artists are represented in depth, including such major figures as Rembrandt, Rubens and Turner.

The IMAF Centre for Drawings is funded for a period of five years and aims to transform the long-term future of the collection. The International Music and Art Foundation will support the conservation of the collection, including the remounting of approximately 1,400 works in acid-free mounts. Storage and conservation facilities will also be improved. A new cataloguing system will radically improve and enrich the use of the



Scholars at work in The Courtauld's  
Prints & Drawings Study Room

collection online by scholars and the public. Exhibitions, catalogues and a series of special displays will present new research and will further promote public enjoyment of the collection. The IMAF Centre for Drawings will also foster advanced collaborative research by hosting visiting curators and organising symposia and research projects. The technical study of drawings will be an area of special focus, and the IMAF Centre for Drawings at The Courtauld will work especially closely with the Morgan Library and Museum in New York.

Ernst Vegelin, Head of The Courtauld Gallery, commented: 'We are very grateful to the

International Music and Art Foundation for this exceptionally generous and far-sighted gift. It will help to ensure that the stewardship of this great collection continues to develop in order to meet the needs of the public and new generations of scholars and students.'

### **Notes for editors:**

The collection of 7,000 drawings and watercolours at The Courtauld Gallery is one of the finest in the UK. It is largely the result of the gifts and bequests of individual collectors. Samuel Courtauld presented important 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century French drawings, including works by Cézanne and Picasso. In 1952 Sir Robert Witt bequeathed his collection of approximately 3,000 drawings. Count Antoine Seilern's bequest of the Princes Gate Collection in 1978 brought many of the greatest individual works into the collection, including outstanding Renaissance drawings by Michelangelo and Leonardo and works by Rembrandt, Rubens and other 17<sup>th</sup> century masters. The collection has continued to grow in recent years. The Dorothy Scharf bequest, received in 2007, included eight works by J.M.W. Turner. The collection may be viewed in the Prints and Drawings Study Room. Works from the collection are regularly on show in the Gallery as part of exhibitions or special displays. The entire collection is also available online via The Courtauld's website.

For further information and images please contact:

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