

PRESS RELEASE

From the 10th to the 19th of March 2017 on the occasion of TEFAF Maastricht, the most important antiques and figurative art fair, the Borghese Gallery will propose a part of its collection. The choice of the exhibited works aims to represent a place that is not only a collection of paintings and sculpture, mostly masterpieces, but also a perfect decorative ensemble of decorations, furniture, wall and floor paintings, sculptures and objects that all together represent the complexity and richness of their place of belonging. It is the first time that the Borghese Gallery presents works of art of such importance and all together outside their original context.

The collection of the Borghese Gallery, defined as *the finest collection in the world*, is still at present all located inside the Villa Borghese in the place that was thought and created exactly for that same group of artworks, in a sort of *ante litteram* museum dream. It was created in 1607 according to the will of Cardinal Scipione Caffarelli Borghese (1577-1633), who embarked on a very intense artistic patronage along with a systematic acquisition of works of art, making his collection one of the greatest of the time.

The first collection was formed by paintings by Raphael, Titian, and later Caravaggio, whilst the antique sculpture group, another fundamental element capable of conferring an aura of ideal universality to the artistic collections, was constantly being enriched. The splendor of archeological marbles found an echo in the extraordinary novelty of a “modern” statuary in a persistent competition with classical models.

From 1615 to 1623 the young Gian Lorenzo Bernini realized for the Cardinal the universally famous sculpture groups still preserved in the Museum in the center of each room. They link together the entire decorative theme with the iconographic nuclei of the groups which, to date, have never been moved: *Aeneas and Anchises*, *the Rape of Proserpine*, *the David* and *the Apollo and Daphne*.

The museum finds its perfection, other than in its outstanding collection, in the coherence of its decorative corpus, which includes marbles, inlays, mosaics, stuccos and ancient inserts.

The aliveness of the collection may still be witnessed today by the recent acquisition of a painting, *the Portrait of Giulio Sacchetti* by Pietro da Cortona, in line with what Cardinal Scipione had started.

The exhibition is organized inside the *Loan* section of TEFAF Maastricht, which is not only an unrivaled meeting point for the best global art dealers, but also a must destination for the greatest international private and institutional collectors.