
KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM WIEN



OCTOBER 15, 2019 TO **CARAVAGGIO & BERNINI**
JANUARY 19, 2020

The Discovery of Feelings

The exhibition presents an extravagantly visual baroque spectacle at the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna. Its focus is on the revolutionary works produced by the painter Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (1517–1610) and the sculptor Gian Lorenzo Bernini (1598–1680). For the first time, these two titans of seventeenth-century art are juxtaposed in a single exhibition. These transformative artists share a new susceptibility for realism, verisimilitude and the pathos of grand emotions. Presenting over seventy masterpieces of Roman painting and sculpture – from Caravaggio to Bernini – this major exhibition focuses on the Baroque's dramatic staging of human emotions.

The first major Caravaggio/Bernini Exhibition in Austria

The Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna holds the largest and most important collection of works by Caravaggio and his followers outside Italy, but there has never been a major exhibition showcasing the painter and his era. Works by Gian Lorenzo Bernini, a sculptor born a generation later whose compositions greatly influenced Austrian baroque art, have also rarely been on show in this country.

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Rome in Vienna

The exhibition explores the phenomenon of the early Baroque and presents the revolutionary art produced in Rome during the first half of the seventeenth century. Caravaggio and Bernini were the Eternal City's foremost artists, causing a sensation both with their novel artistic ideas and their unconventional lifestyles.

Rome quickly evolved into a centre of innovative ideas and inventions. The show focuses on the revolution in the arts to which it played host between 1600 and 1650, which would greatly impact the rest of Europe. During these decades the city was a magnet for countless talented artists from all over Europe, from Florence, Naples and Lombardy, but also from France, Germany, Flanders and the Low Countries. They all experimented with these new themes and compositions, creating fascinating works filled with drama and passion, marked by depictions of unexpected or strong emotions and movement and a highly-dramatic use of colour. Their protagonists' expansive gestures, expressive features and actions reveal and display intense feelings. It became de rigueur for artists to appeal to the emotions of their audience. The four decades between 1600 and 1640 marked the birth of a fervently emotional art, not only in painting and sculpture but also in poetry, literature, music and theatre. A sudden shock – as in Caravaggio's *Boy Bitten by a Lizard* – documents the period's fascination with depicting strong emotions.

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Another characteristic of the period later called the Early Baroque is a growing willingness among artists to collaborate, as exemplified by the founding of academies (*Accademia di San Luca*) and the many friendships that existed between artists. Painters and sculptors collaborated on the decoration of elaborate, costly family chapels and large galleries, in which the different media brilliantly complemented one another, enhancing each other's effect and expressive power. They sometimes appear so intertwined that it becomes difficult to separate them – yet another characteristic of Baroque art: sculptures that display painterly qualities, and paintings that create the illusion of architecture and sculpture.

By juxtaposing painting and sculpture, the exhibition hopes to offer a new perspective on the art produced in Rome in the early seventeenth century. There has never been an exhibition outside of

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Italy that showcased such a large selection of important masterworks from this period. Outstanding highlights of Roman early baroque art join forces to create a unique visual experience that is the first to focus on “the discovery of emotions” as an artistic challenge, while encouraging visitors to embark on a visual journey to the Eternal City. They will come face to face with Caravaggio’s and Bernini’s deepest artistic impulses, and a kaleidoscope of other masterpieces: works by painters such as Artemisia Gentileschi, Annibale Carracci, Nicolas Poussin, Mattia Preti, Guido Reni or Pietro da Cortona, and by sculptors including Francesco Mochi, Giuliano Finelli, Alessandro Algardi or François Du Quesnoy.

Highlights

Among the highlights of the exhibition – in addition to the paintings in the collection of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna – are key works by Caravaggio including *Narcissus*, *Boy Bitten by a Lizard*, the celebrated *John the Baptist*, and the *Portrait of the Maltese Knight Antonio Martelli*. From Bernini’s oeuvre his *Medusa*, a model of the *Elephant with Obelisk*, a bust of Cardinal Richelieu, a statue of St Sebastian and a model for the sculpture *St Theresa of Avila in Ecstasy* will be presented in Vienna. Four small bronze heads never before on show to the public – they were originally designed to decorate the architect’s carriage and remain in the collection of his heirs – will also travel to Vienna. Other highlights of the exhibition include Guido Reni’s *Massacre of the Innocents* and *Mary Magdalen* (only re-discovered in 2011) by Artemisia Gentileschi, the only female artist to establish herself as one of the leading Italian master-painters in the early seventeenth century. Now in a private collection, the painting will be on show to the public for the very first time.

Important Loans from International Museums and Private Collections

The exhibition also brings together important loans from, to name but a few, the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Louvre in Paris, the Uffizi in Florence, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the National Gallery in London, the Hermitage in Saint Petersburg, the Art Institute in Chicago, the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection in Madrid, the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, the Pinacoteca Vaticana in the Vatican, and private lenders.

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A Collaboration with the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam

The show is a collaboration between the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna and the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, where it will be on show February 14 – June 7, 2020.

The exhibition is curated by Gudrun Swoboda, curator of South-European Baroque Painting at the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Stefan Weppelmann, director of the Picture Gallery of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, and Frits Scholten, head curator for sculpture at the Rijksmuseum.

Time Slot Ticket and extended Opening Hours

To visit the exhibition you need to book a timeslot. Visitors can only enter the special exhibition at the time stated on their pre-booked timeslot ticket – they can, however, remain in the exhibition galleries for as long as they wish.

We also offer other ways to enjoy *Caravaggio & Bernini* such as, for example, premium tickets or Friday-Evening-Specials.

We have also extended the museum's opening hours: October 15, 2019 – January 19, 2020 the special exhibition will be open Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri 9AM – 6PM, and Thurs, Sat and Sun 9AM – 9PM.

For more information and FAQs about the special exhibition go to our website: <https://caravaggio-bernini.khm.at>

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PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Press photographs are available in the press section of our website free of charge, for your topical reporting: <http://press.khm.at/>.



Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (Milan 1571 – 1610 Porto Ercole)
Boy Bitten by a Lizard
Rome, c. 1597/98
Canvas, 65.8 × 49.5 cm
Florence, Fondazione di Studi die Storia dell'Arte Roberto Longhi
© Florence, Fondazione Roberto Longhi



Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (Milan 1571 – 1610 Porto Ercole)
St John the Baptist
Rome, c. 1602
Canvas, 129 × 95 cm
Rome, Musei Capitolini, Pinacoteca Capitolina
© Sovrintendenza Capitolina, Musei Capitolini – Pinacoteca Capitolina, Roma



Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (Milan 1571 – 1610 Porto Ercole)
Narcissus
Rome, c. 1600
Canvas, 113.3 × 94 cm
Rome, Gallerie Nazionali d'Arte Antica, Palazzo Barberini
© Gallerie Nazionali di Arte Antica - Bibliotheca Hertziana, Istituto Max Planck per la storia dell'arte/Enrico Fontolan

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Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (Milan 1571 – 1610 Porto Ercole)
David with the Head of Goliath
Rome, c. 1600/1601
Poplar, 90.5 × 116 cm
Vienna, Kunsthistorisches Museum
© KHM-Museumsverband



Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (Milan 1571 – 1610 Porto Ercole)
Madonna of the Rosary
Rome, c. 1601/03
Canvas, 364.5 × 249.5 cm
Vienna, Kunsthistorisches Museum
© KHM-Museumsverband



Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (Milan 1571 – 1610 Porto Ercole)
The Crowning with Thorns
Rome, c. 1603
Canvas, 127 × 166 cm
Vienna, Kunsthistorisches Museum
© KHM-Museumsverband



Artemisia Gentileschi (Rome 1593 – c. 1654 Naples)
Mary Magdalene in Ecstasy
Rome or Venice, 1620–25 or 1630–35
Canvas, 81 × 105 cm
Private European collection
© Photo: Dominique Provost

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Gian Lorenzo Bernini (Naples 1598 – 1680 Rome)

St Sebastian

Rome, 1617

Marble, h. 98.8 cm

Private collection; on loan to Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid

© Photo: Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid



Gian Lorenzo Bernini (Naples 1598 – 1680 Rome)

Medusa

Rome, 1638–40

Marble with traces of original patina, h. 46 cm

Rome, Musei Capitolini, Palazzo dei Conservatori

© Sovrintendenza Capitolina, Musei Capitolini – Pinacoteca Capitolina,

Rome © Photo: Andrea Jemolo



Gian Lorenzo Bernini (Naples 1598 – 1680 Rome)

The Ecstasy of St Teresa (1515–1582)

Rome, 1647

Terracotta, h. 47 cm

St Petersburg, The State Hermitage Museum

© St Petersburg, The State Hermitage Museum

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Guido Reni (Calvenzano 1575–1642 Bologna)
Massacre of the Innocents
Rome, 1611
Canvas, 268 × 170 cm
Bologna, Pinacoteca Nazionale
© Polo Museale dell'Emilia-Romagna



Gian Lorenzo Bernini (Naples 1598 – 1680 Rome)
Cardinal Armand-Jean du Plessis (1585–1642), Duc de Richelieu
Rome, 1640–41
Carrara marble, h. 83 cm (incl. pedestal)
Paris, Musée du Louvre
© Photo RMN-Grand Palais (musée du Louvre) / Hervé Lewandowski



Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (Milan 1571 – 1610 Porto Ercole)
Fra Antonio Martelli (1534–1618) Wearing the Costume of a Knight Hospitaller of the Order of Saint John of Malta
Valletta, 1607/08
Canvas, 118.5 × 95.5 cm
Florence, Galleria Palatina
© Su concessione del Ministero per i beni e le attività culturali, Galleria Palatina

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CATALOGUE

The exhibition catalogue will be published in German, English and Dutch.

EXHIBITION DESIGN

Designstudio Embacher

JOURNALIST ACCREDITATION

Journalists visiting the KHM-Museumsverband for professional purposes are entitled to free admission to its exhibitions and locations. For this purpose, you need to register via info.pr@khm.at at least two working days in advance.

We request that, in addition to mentioning your medium, you also specify the date of your visit and attach a scan of your valid press pass. Many thanks for your understanding!

OPENING HOURS ENTRANCE FEES TIME SLOT

ENTRANCE FEES "CARAVAGGIO & BERNINI" INCL. TIME SLOT

Tickets for the exhibition incl. time slots are available here:

<https://shop.khm.at/de/tickets/>

Kunsthistorisches Museum	Adults	€ 21
Maria-Theresien-Platz	Concessions	€ 17
1010 Vienna	Vienna City Card	€ 20
	Groups (of 10 or over)	€ 17
	Annual Ticket	€ 44
	Annual Ticket under 25	€ 25
	Children and teens under 19	free
	Audio guide (Engl./German)	€ 5

OPENING HOURS DURING "CARAVAGGIO & BERNINI"

October 15, 2019 – January 19, 2020 the special exhibition will be open
Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri 9AM – 6PM, and Thurs, Sat and Sun 9AM – 9PM

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook and get the latest news about the upcoming exhibition and our programme of events and lectures.

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