

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART



MEDIA ALERT: New Exhibition Tells the Stories of Printmaking Families Across Europe

WHAT: The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin presents a new two-part exhibition on the role of family relationships in European printmaking. Featuring prints as well as drawings and paintings from the Blanton's collection, [A Family Affair: Artistic Dynasties in Europe](#) explores how artistic skills, reputation, and resources were handed down through generations. Opening this weekend, part one of the exhibition features sixteen families of artists who shaped European printmaking in the 1500s and 1600s.

Artists in this period were trained in the apprentice system, learning specialized techniques like engraving that were often passed down within families. Sons, and occasionally daughters, inherited not only their father's printmaking workshops but also valuable assets like drawings and copperplates, which could be reprinted. This practice extended legacies of certain artistic dynasties for several centuries. Some families established a distinctive "house style," making works by individual members nearly indistinguishable. In other cases, family members developed their own styles, often leveraging a relative's reputation to travel across Europe and attract new patrons. Highlights of the exhibition include intricate engravings by the Goltzius and Matham family, one of the era's most significant printmaking dynasties. Part two of *A Family Affair*, opening later this year, will trace the evolution of family workshops through the late 19th century and include such prominent artists as brother-and-sister-in-law Édouard Manet and Berthe Morisot.

A Family Affair is a companion exhibition to [In Creative Harmony: Three Artistic Partnerships](#), which opens in February 2025 and expands on the ways legacy, connection, and collaboration influence artistic production.

WHEN: The first part of *A Family Affair* opens January 25, 2025, and is on view through June 15, 2025. The second part will open June 28, 2025.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

Starting February 2, 2025

Public Tours of *A Family Affair*

Public tours will be offered in English and Spanish throughout the run of the show on select Tuesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, starting on February 2, 2025. Tours are free with museum admission.

Saturday, February 8, 2025, at 4 p.m.

Art with an Expert: Hendrick Goltzius' Family and Friends

Part of the museum's Blanton All Day program, art historian Larry Silver will discuss the intersecting networks of printmakers, painters, and designers surrounding Hendrick Goltzius, the most celebrated Netherlandish printmaker of his day.

Sunday, May 11, 2025, at 12 p.m.

Curator's Choice

Part of the museum's Blanton All Day program, Blanton curator Sarah Bane will discuss printmaking states in *The Rat Catcher* by Cornelis Visscher as well as the Visscher brothers' thriving artistic practice

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PRESS DETAILS:

Images are available [here](#).

For interviews with the curators and press access to the exhibitions, please reach out to Katie Bruton, katie.bruton@blantonmuseum.org.

About the Blanton Museum of Art:

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with more than 21,000 objects. Recognized as the home of Ellsworth Kelly's *Austin*, its major collecting areas are modern and contemporary U.S. and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and prints and drawings. The Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.

Image captions:

(Left) Hendrick Goltzius, *Aether, plate six from Demogorgon and the Deities*, circa 1588-1590

Chiaroscuro woodcut from three blocks, tone blocks printed in ochre and brown, 13 7/8 × 10 5/8 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Archer M. Huntington Museum Fund, 1983

(Right) Jacob Matham, *Summer, plate 2 from The Seasons, after Hendrick Goltzius*, 1589 engraving, 10 × 10 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, The Leo Steinberg Collection, 2002