



NASHER MUSEUM OF ART AT DUKE UNIVERSITY

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**BANK OF AMERICA TO SPONSOR LANDMARK EXHIBITION
EL GRECO TO VELÁZQUEZ: ART DURING THE REIGN OF PHILIP III
AT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON, AND NASHER MUSEUM OF ART**

BOSTON, MA (September 6, 2007)—The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), and the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University announce that Bank of America will sponsor *El Greco to Velázquez: Art during the Reign of Philip III* at its two venues, in Boston at the MFA, and in Durham, NC, at the Nasher Museum of Art. *El Greco to Velázquez* will place the works of two of Spain's greatest painters within the little-known, yet vibrant, 23-year period that spanned the reign of Spain's Philip III (1598 to 1621). More than 100 works (paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts)—many of which are traveling to the United States for the first time—will be featured, including important paintings by El Greco and Velázquez, as well as works by many prolific Spanish artists who are lesser known in the United States. Organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the Nasher Museum of Art, *El Greco to Velázquez* will be on view at the MFA from April 20–July 27, 2008, and at the Nasher Museum from August 21–November 9, 2008.

With this sponsorship, Bank of America continues its commitment as a corporate leader in support of the arts. In recent years, Bank of America sponsored the MFA's *Americans in Paris, 1860–1900* (2006), as well as *Gauguin Tahiti* (2004). Bank of America also sponsors other art exhibitions at venues throughout the United States each year.

“We are pleased to support this exciting exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts—especially one that draws from acclaimed museum collections worldwide—highlighting this unexplored period in Spain's artistic history,” said Rena M. DeSisto, Arts and Culture Executive, Bank of America. “It is especially gratifying to work with the Nasher Museum in North Carolina, where we are

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headquartered, and once again with the MFA in Boston, where we have a long history of community involvement and support of the arts.”

“As a result of Bank of America’s support, we will be able to offer the first exploration in this country of this understudied period in Spain that was the setting for the late works of El Greco and the early works of Velázquez. This landmark exhibition is made possible by enlightened cultural philanthropy,” said Malcolm Rogers, Ann and Graham Gund Director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

El Greco to Velázquez will feature key masterpieces from the MFA’s own collection, including El Greco’s *Portrait of Fray Hortensio Félix Paravicino* (1609) and Velázquez’s *Luis de Góngora y Argote* (1622), alongside important national and international loans from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., the Museo del Prado, the Musée du Louvre, and the National Gallery in London, among others. In addition to paintings by El Greco and Velázquez, the show will introduce to the American public exceptional works by lesser known but very accomplished artists, among them: Juan Bautista Maino, Juan Sánchez Cotán, Luis Tristán, and Gregorio Fernández. In addition, ***El Greco to Velázquez*** will offer a partial recreation of the *camarín*—a small room of imported and Spanish ceramics, porcelain, and redware amassed by the Duke of Lerma, Philip III’s favorite and one of the period’s most important art collectors.

“Bank of America is a major corporate sponsor of some of the most significant museum exhibitions in the country,” said Kimerly Rorschach, Mary D.B.T. and James H. Semans Director of the Nasher Museum. “We’re very pleased that Bank of America is helping us to present one of the most important old master exhibitions ever to visit North Carolina.”

This seminal exhibition is co-curated by the MFA’s Ronni Baer (Mrs. Russell W. Baker Senior Curator of Paintings, Art of Europe) and the Nasher’s Sarah Schroth (Nancy Hanks Senior Curator). The full-color catalogue accompanying the exhibition will include essays by the co-curators as well as other eminent scholars on the art, literature, politics, and religious climate of Spain during the reign of Philip III. This interdisciplinary approach will present a reassessment of the cultural significance of the period, which has historically been undervalued by scholars.

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The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), was founded in 1876. It is recognized for the quality and scope of its encyclopedic collection, which includes an estimated 450,000 objects, and contains some of the rarest and most important artistic treasures in the world. Open seven days a week, the MFA's hours are: Saturday through Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.; Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 9:45 p.m. General admission (which includes two visits in a 10-day period) is \$17 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students age 18 and older. Admission for students who are University Members is free, as is admission for children 17 years of age and younger during non-school hours. Admission also is free during Citizens Bank Foundation Wednesday Nights (after 4 p.m.); voluntary donations are welcome. Gund Gallery exhibitions are ticketed events that require an additional fee. The Museum is closed on New Year's Day, Patriots' Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. For general visitor information, visit the MFA website at www.mfa.org or call 617.267.9300.

The Nasher Museum of Art is a major arts center on Duke University's campus that serves the university, Research Triangle area and surrounding region with exhibitions and educational programs. The museum, designed by Rafael Viñoly, opened to the public in 2005. The Nasher Museum is located at 2001 Campus Drive at Anderson Street. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday; and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The museum is closed Mondays. Suggested admission is \$5 adults, \$4 for seniors and members of the Duke Alumni Association, \$3 for non-Duke students with I.D. and free for children 16 and younger. Admission is free to Duke students, faculty and staff with Duke I.D. Admission is also free to Durham city residents who present a valid I.D. with proof of residency, courtesy of The Herald-Sun. Additional information is available at www.nasher.duke.edu.

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