

News Release
Public Information
Department

September 2000

An Exhibition of Early Renaissance Master Nardo di Cione Opens at the Brooklyn Museum of Art November 17, 2000

Exhibition Celebrates the Reunion of the Masterpiece *Madonna and Child with Saints* with its Recently Acquired Top Panel, *Christ Blessing*

For the first time in nearly 150 years, the Brooklyn Museum of Art's altarpiece by Nardo di Cione, *Madonna and Child Enthroned with Saints*, will be shown complete with its uppermost panel, *Christ Blessing*, which was recently acquired by the Museum. The complete work, considered the most important mid-14th-century Italian painting in America, is part of *Nardo di Cione: The Reuniting of an Altarpiece*, an exhibition at the BMA opening November 17, 2000, that celebrates the early Renaissance master and the reunion of these two panels. The exhibition closes on February 18, 2001.

The Museum's *Madonna and Child with Saints* is one of the most remarkable achievements of Nardo di Cione, whose known oeuvre comprises fewer than thirty works. The Museum purchased that panel from the 1995 Sotheby's sale of art from the New-York Historical Society, and has been able to complete the altarpiece with the recent purchase of the pinnacle, representing Christ. The two pictures were last seen together at an auction in 1851.

The *Christ Blessing* panel was first severed from the rest of the altarpiece to facilitate transport from Italy to Paris when Artaud de Montor purchased the work in 1808. The two panels remained together in that collection until 1851, when they were sold separately. The main altarpiece, *Madonna and Child with Saints*, was purchased by Thomas Jefferson Bryan, who later bequeathed the work to the

Nardo di Cione

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New-York Historical Society in 1867. The *Christ Blessing* panel, long thought to be lost, and known only through an engraving, was in fact in a private collection, and resurfaced in a sale in England in the Spring of 2000.

Related works by Nardo di Cione will also be included in the exhibition, to give a context to this masterpiece. The exhibition will also present information about the various processes used by Museum curators and conservators to analyze works of art.

Nardo di Cione is being organized by Elizabeth Easton, Chair of the Department of European Painting and Sculpture. The exhibition will be presented in the Museum's Galleries of European Painting and Sculpture.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Admission:

Contribution \$4; students with valid I.D. and older adults \$2. Free to Members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Group tours or visits can be arranged through the Education Division, ext. 234.

Directions:

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop. Bus: B71, B41, B69, B48. On-site parking available.

Museum Hours:

Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
First Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; all other Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.;
Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Museum Caf open until 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Museum Libraries and Archive: are open by appointment. Museum shops are open 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; till 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.