

## Raphael Comes to Worcester

*The Renaissance master's Small Cowper Madonna to go on view at the Worcester Art Museum on January 24th*



January 14, 2015 (Worcester, MA) -- From January 24 through September 27, visitors to the Worcester Art Museum (WAM) will have the rare opportunity to view Raphael's *The Small Cowper Madonna*, considered to be one of the most significant Renaissance paintings in America. The painting, on loan from Washington's National Gallery of Art, will be exhibited with a work from WAM's collection, whose attribution has long been disputed without clear consensus on its relationship to the Renaissance master. *The Small Cowper Madonna* was painted when Raphael traveled from Urbino to Florence and commences his highly influential series of Madonnas that secured his esteemed reputation.

In a focused installation, viewers will be able to compare the stylistic treatment of this work with the *Northbrook Madonna*, which originally entered WAM's collection in 1940 as a Raphael, a designation that has since been discarded. The display will explore the development of Raphael's early style and its influence among the artist community in Central Italy.

As part of WAM's Master Series, on Thursday, February 19 Italian Renaissance art scholar Linda Wolk-Simon will offer an in-depth look at Raphael through the lens of this exhibition. Information for this program follows below and a press release with details on the Master Series program is available [here](#).

**WHAT:** *Master Series Third Thursday: The Cowper Madonna*

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 19, 6 pm

**WHERE:** Worcester Art Museum  
55 Salisbury Street  
Worcester, MA 01609

**ADMISSION:** Attendance is free with Museum admission.

**PUBLIC INFO:** <http://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/raphael-the-cowper-madonna/>

**ABOUT THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM:**

Founded in 1898, the Worcester Art Museum serves Worcester and the broader region. The Museum houses an encyclopedic collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings, and new media. WAM's collection has historically been strongest in European Renaissance paintings, but with recent acquisitions and donations, like Veronese's *Venus Disarming Cupid* and the integration of the collection from the Higgins Armory Museum, it continues to diversify and expand its curatorial and programmatic offerings. Symbolized by the opening of the Salisbury Street doors in 2012, the Museum continues toward its goal of accessibility for all visitors.

**GENERAL INFO**

The Worcester Art Museum is located at 55 Salisbury Street in Worcester, MA.

**Admission:** The first Saturday of each month: Free Admission from 10am-noon.

**General Admission:** \$14 for adults, \$6 for children 4-17, \$12 for seniors 65+, \$12 for college students with ID. Members and children under 4 are free. Parking is free. For more information, visit [worcesterart.org](http://worcesterart.org).

**CONTACT:**

Worcester Art Museum

Julieane Frost

508-793-4373

[JulieaneFrost@worcesterart.org](mailto:JulieaneFrost@worcesterart.org)