ArtHist net

ARTstor collaboration announcements

Max Marmor

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to share this digest of recent collection development announcements on behalf of ARTstor. ARTstor (www.artstor.org) was created in 2001 as a nonprofit initiative of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and is now an independent non-profit organization dedicated to serving education and scholarship in the arts and the humanities through the utilization of digital technologies. Currently, more than 400 nonprofit institutions in North America are participating in ARTstor, and ARTstor anticipates making its library of digital images available to nonprofit institutions outside of the North America as well. For fuller descriptions of these collection development collaborations, please see http://www.artstor.org/info/news/whats_new.jsp.

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Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts from the Bodleian Library, Oxford University

Oxford University and ARTstor have recently reached an agreement whereby Oxford University's Bodleian Library and ARTstor will collaborate on the digitization and distribution through ARTstor of approximately 25,000 digital images of manuscript paintings and drawings from the Bodleian Library's outstanding collection of medieval and renaissance illuminated western manuscripts. Through this partnership, ARTstor will digitize virtually all of the illuminated manuscript leaves from Bodleian manuscripts through the 16th century. The present collaboration will make this rich body of visual material and related scholarship available online and at high resolution for the first time.

Ghiberti's "Gates of Paradise"

After more than twenty-five years of work, the restoration of Ghiberti's famous "Gates of Paradise" - the bronze doors on the east side of the Florentine Baptistery - is nearing completion. Through an agreement with the Opera di Santa Maria del Fiore and the Museo Opificio delle Pietre Dure (Florence, Italy), ARTstor is supporting the rich photographic

documentation of the recently restored This photographic campaign has produced nearly 700 stunning, detailed color photographs of Ghiberti's relief sculptures, all of which will be digitized and made available through ARTstor at the highest resolution.

Kress Collection of Old Master Paintings

Through a collaboration with the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, approximately 1,200 Old Master paintings from the former Kress Collection will be made available in digital form through ARTstor. From the mid-1920s to the end of the 1950s, S.H. Kress (1863-1955) and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation (est. 1929) amassed one of the most important collections of European Old Master paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts ever assembled through the efforts of a private individual. The entire collection was ultimately given away to 42 American museums, including the National Gallery of Art. Encompassing European art of the principal continental schools from the 13th to the early 19th centuries, the Kress Collection's greatest distinction resides its more than 1,000 Italian paintings. Through the present collaboration, this remarkable collection will be reassembled in digital form, at high resolution.

Reference:

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