

# ZANESVILLE MUSEUM of ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Zanesville Museum of Art Opening Significant Exhibition

ZANESVILLE, Ohio—The Zanesville Museum of Art is preparing to open *An American in Venice | James McNeill Whistler and His Legacy*. This exhibition opens at the museum Thursday, October 24, 2019. An exhibition of this magnitude and importance does not come to this region very often. James McNeill Whistler is one of the most famous American artists, and he forever changed the art world with his innovative techniques. This exhibition explores Whistler's and his followers' prints during their time in Venice, Italy. These are the most significant works of Whistler's career and should not be missed.

### About this Exhibition and Artist

- Opens Thursday, October 24, 2019 and closes Saturday, January 4, 2020
- Exclusive ZMA Member Preview October 24, 10 am–5 pm
- Official public opening October 24, 5:30–7 pm. Cash bar, refreshments, and music by Evan Abood
- Organized by the Syracuse University Art Collection
- James McNeill Whistler is considered one of the most important American artists
- Whistler was very eccentric and lived beyond his means

This exhibition presents work by Whistler alongside other printmakers who were practicing in Italy in the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

In 1879 American artist James McNeill Whistler arrived in Italy with a commission from the Fine Arts Society of London to create twelve etchings of Venice. Over the ensuing fourteen months the artist produced a body of prints that are among the most important of his career. The prints from Whistler's Venice period are distinguished by the artist's original approach to capturing the unique qualities of the canaled city and his innovative use of the etching process. His prints have arguably become the most studied prints in the history of art— after those of Rembrandt — and they had a significant influence on his followers.

Whistler sought to capture a "Venice of the Venetians," and his prints depict palazzo entries, private courtyards and sweeping views over the canal where Venice's most famous monuments rarely appear or are background features. His career-long interest in the effects of light and water were enhanced by his technical innovations developed in this period.

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This exhibition presents twelve prints by Whistler, placing them alongside the work of followers who were practicing in Italy in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The juxtaposition of these works allows the viewer to appreciate both Whistler's innovations and the different ways in which his work affected the artists who followed him. While artists such as Mortimer Menpes and Joseph Pennell still enjoy a modicum of fame, other artists in this exhibit, like Minna Bolingbroke, have faded. Whistler's legacy lies in his far-reaching vision for both his medium and his subject, which has made his art significant for a remarkably broad range of colleagues.

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The museum welcomes visitors: Wed, Fri, Sat 10 am–5 pm and Thurs 10 am–7:30 pm.  
Admission: \$6 for adults; \$4 for adults 60 and older and students with valid ID; Free for children 10 and under.

Free Admission Thursday Evenings 5-7:30 pm.  
Free Admission for Active Duty Military Members  
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