Baroque Brilliance at the Bruce Museum
First Ever Student Symposia Will Feature Student Art Historians

GREENWICH, CT, January 13, 2015 – The next generation of art historians will be in Greenwich on February 7 and 21 for Baroque Brilliance, a series of two inaugural student symposia organized by the Bruce Museum. Eight student speakers have been selected from prestigious art history programs to present their research at the Museum. Doctoral students will present on February 7 and undergraduates will have their chance on February 21; both events run from noon to 4:00 p.m. and are open to the public.

“These symposia constitute a new and exciting chapter in the long history of education at the Bruce,” says Dr. Peter C. Sutton, executive director of the Bruce Museum. “For the first time we will be able to share the research of emerging scholars with the public, offering a glimpse at the thinking of tomorrow’s art historians.”

The Museum invited students to submit research on the art and culture of seventeenth-century Europe to complement the current exhibition Northern Baroque Splendor. The Hohenbichau Collection from Liechtenstein. The Princely Collections, Vienna. Submissions were judged by a panel consisting of Dr. Sutton, who was the organizer of Northern Baroque Splendor; Deputy Director Susan Ball; and the Museum’s Samuel H. Kress Interpretive Fellow, Tara Contractor.

“These student symposia – our first ever – are a platform for tomorrow’s art historians to share ongoing research and to engage in conversation with the general public,” says Susan Ball, the Museum’s deputy director. “We certainly want to support young scholars, and this is a great way for us to do that while continuing the Bruce’s longstanding tradition of bringing the latest thinking in both art and science to Greenwich.”

The selected students will present on a variety of topics, from Italian Baroque painting to city planning in the seventeenth-century Netherlands. Titled Baroque Brilliance, the two symposia will be moderated by top scholars from local universities. Lisa Rafanelli, professor of art history at Manhattanville College, will moderate the February 7 graduate symposium, while Marsely Kehoe, lecturer and Mellon postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University, will moderate the February 21 undergraduate symposium. Each symposium will begin with light refreshments and open galleries, after which the speakers deliver 20- to 30-minute presentations on their research. Each day will conclude with a moderated session where speakers will answer questions from the audience.

The symposia will be held in the Bruce Museum’s Bantle Lecture Gallery, and are open to the public free with museum admission. Museum admission will be waived for members, students, and educators with ID. Reservations are strongly recommended.
February 7 Graduate Symposium Reservations: [http://graduatebaroquebrilliance.eventbrite.com](http://graduatebaroquebrilliance.eventbrite.com)
February 21 Undergraduate Symposium Reservations: [http://undergraduatebaroquebrilliance.eventbrite.com](http://undergraduatebaroquebrilliance.eventbrite.com)

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**About the Graduate Student Speakers – February 7, 2015**

**Michele Frederick** is the Samuel H. Kress Foundation Interpretive Fellow in European Painting at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She is also an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow in the University of Delaware’s Curatorial Track PhD program with a concentration in Northern Baroque portraiture. Her presentation is titled "The Most Successful Imitator: Aert de Gelder's *Self Portrait as Zeuxis* and Imitation in Seventeenth-Century Artistic Practice."

**Denise Giannino** is a PhD candidate at the University of Kansas, specializing in seventeenth-century Dutch and Flemish painting and prints. Her research focuses on a distinct and understudied subset of family portraits where the sitters appear in a variety of outdoor environments. Her presentation is titled “Coast and Kin: Mercantile and Familial Values in Nicolaes Maes' *Portrait of the Cuyter Family.*”

**Isabella Lores-Chavez** is currently in the first year of the PhD program at Columbia University, focusing on late sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Dutch and Flemish painting. She received her BA from Yale in 2012, where she wrote her undergraduate thesis on an early Robert Rauschenberg combine. Isabella has worked at the Getty, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and most recently at the Museum of Biblical Art in New York. Her presentation is titled "Sites of Worship, Flights of Fancy: Collaborations between Joos de Momper and Jan Brueghel."

**Julia Vazquez** is a PhD candidate at Columbia University and is currently researching a dissertation that reconsiders the career of Diego Velázquez at the court of Philip IV as a major episode in the history of curatorial practice. She received her BA in 2009 from Brown University and has held internships in the Department of Paintings at the Musée du Louvre and in the Client Services/Business Development department of Sotheby’s, Paris. Her presentation is titled "A Death in Antwerp: Rubens, Velázquez, and the Logic of the Copy."
Eleanor Goerss is an undergraduate Art History student at Columbia University in New York. She has a particular fascination with Dutch culture and more generally with the vicissitudes of urban space and its visual history. Her presentation is titled "Faltering in a Golden Age: Utrecht's Unrealized Urban Aspirations."

Rachel Johnson is a current Amherst College senior majoring in art history. She was born and raised in New York City and recently returned from a semester abroad in Amsterdam. Her presentation is titled "The Apollo and Daphne Tapestry."

Maggie Law is a senior at Amherst College, where she is an English major with a minor in art history. She is originally from Garden City, New York. Upon graduation, Maggie plans to move back to New York and begin her career in journalism in the Page Program at NBC. Her presentation is titled "Martha and Mary Magdalene: A Closer Look at the Elder Sister in Caravaggio's Conversion Scene."

Sebastián Morales is a junior majoring in art history at Amherst College and is currently completing a semester abroad in Rome. Raised in Texas, his recent interest in art has been focused on curating. His presentation is titled "Artemisia Gentileschi's Sleeping Venus."
About the Moderators

Marsely Kehoe is a lecturer and Mellon postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University. She is a specialist in Dutch colonial art history and culture, especially of the Dutch East India Company. She will also be presenting a public lecture at the Bruce Museum on Monday, March 23, from 10-11:30 a.m.

Lisa Rafanelli is a professor of Italian Renaissance art history at Manhattanville College. Her research interests include the relationship of early modern feminist theory to the visual arts, the senses in sixteenth-century European art, and the reception of the European Renaissance in modern American culture. She recently co-authored *Faith, Gender and the Senses in Italian Renaissance and Baroque Art* with Erin Benay (forthcoming with Ashgate, June 2015).

About the Bruce Museum

The Bruce Museum is a museum of art and science and is located at One Museum Drive in Greenwich, Connecticut. The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm; closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission is $7 for adults, $6 for students up to 22 years, $6 for seniors and free for members and children less than five years. Individual admission is free on Tuesday. Free on-site parking is available and the Museum is accessible to individuals with disabilities. For additional information, call the Bruce Museum at 203-869-0376 or visit the website at brucemuseum.org