



***DIANA AND ACTAEON* CELEBRATES ITS FIRST ANNIVERSARY**

SCOTTISH TOUR PLANS ANNOUNCED

On the first anniversary of the nation's acquisition of Titian's *Diana and Actaeon*, the National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) and the National Gallery in London are delighted to announce a tour of the painting to three venues in Scotland in 2010.

The painting will be on public display in Aberdeen Art Gallery from 28 May to 27 June, at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow from 1 July to 1 August and at the McManus Galleries, Dundee from 6 August to 5 September.

Fiona Hyslop, Scottish Minister for Culture, said:

"Increasing access to the nation's cultural collections is very important to us, so I am pleased to see *Diana and Actaeon* is to be displayed in Aberdeen, Dundee and Glasgow. I am sure the tour will not only attract visitors to the host venues; it will stimulate interest in other local museums and galleries. This can only be a good thing, both in terms of the benefits of cultural participation to individuals and for the contribution such high profile exhibitions make to local economies."

Margaret Hodge, Minister for Culture and Tourism said:

"I am really pleased that this picture will now be touring the country. So many individuals and organisations worked together to save it for the nation; it is absolutely right – and thoroughly democratic – that it should now be seen and enjoyed by the widest possible audience."

John Leighton, Director-General of the NGS said:

"The successful campaign to acquire Titian's *Diana and Actaeon* brought one of the great masterpieces of Western art into public ownership. This tour will allow audiences across Scotland to experience the power and magic of this great painting at first hand."

Dr. Nicholas Penny, Director of the National Gallery, London said:

"*Diana and Actaeon* was acquired for the nation and the National Gallery in London hopes as wide an audience as possible will be able to enjoy it. We are delighted that the painting will first tour Scotland, the home of the painting for so many years. The National Gallery will announce a further tour to other parts of the United Kingdom when arrangements are finalised."

Diana and Actaeon was acquired for the nation by the NGS and the National Gallery in London in February 2009, following a large scale public and private fundraising campaign. The painting was bought for £50 million from the Duke of Sutherland with generous contributions from private and public donations, Scottish Government, the National Heritage Memorial Fund, The Monument Trust and The Art Fund, along with National Gallery, London and NGS funds.

Diana and Actaeon has been seen by many thousands of people in London and Edinburgh during the past year. It is currently in London as part of a new display demonstrating Titian's significant influence on his peers and on later paintings within the National Gallery's collection, hanging alongside paintings by Cezanne, Rubens, Poussin, Claude, Constable and Titian's *The Death of Actaeon*.

There have been numerous projects and events focusing on the picture throughout the past year. *Picture in Focus: Diana & Actaeon* is a cross-curricular education project for schools run in partnership by the NGS and the National Gallery in London - involving five Scottish high schools and ten UK secondary schools in the pilot stage, before a proposed national roll-out in 2011.

In Scotland *Diana and Actaeon* also takes prominence within school art tours and is the focus for music recitals, creative writing sessions and the subject for monthly life-drawing classes. In London the painting is the focus of regular Lunchtime and 10 Minute Talks, and will be the subject of *Art Through Words* (30 January 2010), a project for blind and partially sighted visitors.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Comments from representatives of the touring venues:

Aberdeen City Council's Vice Covenor for Education, Culture and Sport, Martin Greig said: "*I am truly delighted that this magnificent work by Titian is coming to Aberdeen. Diana and Actaeon is a beautiful picture of immense art historical significance. The display in Aberdeen Art Gallery is a fantastic opportunity for this important painting to be appreciated and admired by a wide audience. There is a great appetite for culture in the area and this exhibition will appeal to many.*"

Bailie Liz Cameron, Chair of Culture and Sport Glasgow, said: "*This summer Kelvingrove will be hosting the most important exhibition of the Glasgow Boys works ever to be staged. The addition of the Titian, thanks to our partnership with the National Galleries of Scotland, will only serve to increase Kelvingrove's status as Scotland's leading visitor attraction.*"

Cllr Bob Duncan, Convenor for Leisure, Arts and Communities with Dundee City Council said: "*We are delighted to be hosting this prestigious national acquisition within the newly restored McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum. It is important that we bring the very best to the city to complement the nationally recognised collections we hold on behalf of the citizens of Dundee and indeed the nation. The National Galleries are to be congratulated on this initiative of bringing this work to the people of Scotland.*"

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Diana and Actaeon by Titian was formerly part of the Bridgewater Collection; a collection of paintings on long term loan to the National Gallery of Scotland from the Duke of Sutherland since 1945.

The Galleries have also been granted the opportunity to buy a second painting - *Diana and Callisto* - for a similar amount by 2012.

ABOUT THE BRIDGEWATER COLLECTION

The Bridgewater Collection, currently on view at the National Galleries of Scotland, is the most important private collection of Old Master paintings on loan to an institution in the UK and counts among the most important art collections anywhere in the world. The loan includes masterpieces by artists such as Raphael (3), Titian (4), Rembrandt (1) and Poussin (8). The pictures have been on continuous public view in the National Gallery of Scotland since the collection was placed there in 1945 by the then 5th Earl of Ellesmere, later 6th Duke of Sutherland. It forms the core of the National Gallery of Scotland's world-famous displays of European art.

ABOUT DIANA AND ACTAEOON

Diana and Actaeon is one of six large-scale mythologies inspired by the Roman poet Ovid that Titian painted for King Philip II of Spain. Titian began the picture and its companion *Diana and Callisto* in 1556, the year of Philip's coronation. Spurred on by the prestige of royal patronage, he unleashed all his creativity to produce works of unprecedented beauty and inventiveness.

Titian worked for three years to perfect these masterpieces, which were shipped to Spain in 1559. He claimed their lengthy genesis was due to the relentless pains he took to make sumptuous works of art worthy of the King.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. The transformation of Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum was enabled with a grant of over £13 million from HLF while the refurbishment of the McManus Galleries is benefiting from a £5 million grant.

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