

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Images Available Upon Request**

Cincinnati Art Museum Cleans 600-year-old Artwork in New Exhibit

***“Conservation on View: Zaragoza’s Retablo of St. Peter”*: January 26 – April 24, 2016**

CINCINNATI – The art and science of conserving fine art will be shared with the public in the Cincinnati Art Museum’s special exhibit, *Conservation on View: Zaragoza’s Retablo of St. Peter*, from January 26 – April 24, 2016.

Cincinnati Art Museum’s Chief Conservator and paintings conservator Serena Urry will be cleaning 600-year-old *The Retablo of St. Peter*, in a public gallery. The Spanish altarpiece, attributed to Lorenzo Zaragoza, features 18 painted panels that show scenes from the life of St. Peter on a rich gilded background.

Cleaning is the first step of a major conservation treatment for the artwork – one of the largest projects undertaken at the Cincinnati Art Museum. Progress in the treatment will be visible over the course of the exhibit. All the pieces of the retablo will be on view, as well as before-treatment photographs, images captured using ultraviolet and infrared light, and informative text panels about the cleaning and fine art conservation in general.

“Visitors will get a sense of the setup of a paintings conservation lab and will be able to observe the conservation process first-hand,” said Urry. “It’s a window into the behind-the-scenes of an art museum’s conservation department.”

Urry’s conservation treatment will include working at an easel and a microscope. A live-view monitor will display the microscopic work for exhibit visitors. When she is not present, a video will show the cleaning.

“There will be plenty of conservation-on-view even when I’m not in the gallery,” Urry said. “And we’re hoping that our visitors will be inspired to return to the museum over the course of the exhibit, to watch as the paintings are revealed by cleaning.”

The Retablo of St. Peter was acquired in 1960 and was last shown at the Art Museum in 2010. The complete conservation treatment is expected to take several years.

The exhibit will be located in Gallery 124, across from the Terrace Café.

cincinnati art museum

we bring people and art together

About the Cincinnati Art Museum

The Cincinnati Art Museum is supported by the generosity of individuals and businesses that give annually to ArtsWave. The Ohio Arts Council helps fund the Cincinnati Art Museum with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The Cincinnati Art Museum gratefully acknowledges operating support from the City of Cincinnati, as well as our members.

General admission to the Cincinnati Art Museum is always free. The museum is open Tuesday – Sunday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. and is closed Monday.

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Conservation on View: Zaragoza's Retablo of St. Peter **PROGRAMMING AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

Please visit <http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org> or call 513-721-ARTS for reservations, tickets or more information.

Creative Encounters: *Conservation in Painting*

February 21, 2016

Each Creative Encounter will feature a visiting artist who will lead a tour of works in the Art Museum's permanent collection and special exhibitions, followed by a discussion of his/her own work. Each event will culminate in a hands-on project. \$5 for Art Museum Members and college students. \$10 for General Admission. Reservations required.

Connect: A Multisensory Museum Experience for Adults with Development Disabilities

February 27, 2016

This program is specifically designed for adults with developmental disabilities and their caregivers. A multisensory exploration of art from the museum's permanent collection and special exhibitions, followed by art making projects. FREE. Reservations required.

Art and...*Science*

March 16, 2016

This lecture series explores what happens when two experts from different fields present their own distinct views on the same artworks. Join us as we explore the Art Museum's collection and special exhibitions in a fun, new way. Free for Art Museum Members. \$10 for General Admission. \$5 for college students and seniors. Reservations required.

InDepth Gallery Experience: *Conservation on View with Serena Urry*

April 9, 2016

Join Art Museum staff the second Saturday of each month for an in-depth look at special exhibitions or gallery re-installations. This expanded gallery talk will provide comprehensive information and insight into what's new at the Art Museum. Free. Reservations required.

Art in the Making: *Comics and Stories in Art*

April 16, 2016

Designed for children ages 6 – 12 who are accompanied by an adult to actively share their art experience. Select local artists make it fun by leading interactive classes that include a gallery tour and hands-on art activity. \$5 Art Museum Members. \$10 for General Admission. Series pricing available. Space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations recommended.

ASL Tours for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired: *Conserved from the Collection*

May 21, 2016

A certified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter joins an Art Museum docent each month for a free tour of one of our special exhibitions.