



For immediate release

Flemish tapestries, Italian nativity scene highlight Museum's holiday offerings

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Lawrence, KS—The Spencer Museum of Art is pleased to share rarely-seen objects from its collection with the public this season. In accordance with a long-standing tradition, the 18th-century Italian *presepio*, or nativity scene, is on view in the Renaissance Gallery. This nativity exemplifies an ornate style that was created in Naples, and in addition to the standard depictions of the Infant Jesus, Mary, Joseph and the Magi, the elaborate composition contains a wide range of figures reflecting everyday Neapolitan life. Given to the Spencer in 1928 by Mrs. Sally Casey Thayer, the *presepio* demonstrates the skill and expressivity of the 18th-century artisans who created these popular nativity scenes.

Also, for the duration of the winter season, *Four Flemish Tapestries* will be on view in the Central Court. This exhibition features important components of the Spencer's extensive textile collection that have not been shown for nearly 25 years. The four large tapestries were created during the late 16th and early 17th centuries, and are exceptional for their completeness and quality. These tapestries depict a range of subjects, from a fanciful leopard hunt to an idyllic scene of country life, and they illustrate the virtuosity of the Flemish workshops that were important centers of tapestry production from the late 1300s until the 18th century.

In observation of the annual winter holidays, the Museum will be closed December 24-25, and January 1. We will observe shortened Thursday hours (close at 4 PM) throughout the KU Winter Break (days affected: December 17 and 31, and January 7). Spring semester classes begin January 14.

Exhibitions currently on view at the Spencer include *Big Shots: Andy Warhol, Celebrity Culture, and the 1980s*, *Earthy Vessels: African Ceramics*, and *Extra/Ordinary: Video Art from Asia*.

Admission to the Spencer Museum of Art is free; donations are welcome.

The Murphy Art & Architecture Library, located on the ground floor of the Spencer, will also shorten its hours of operation over winter break. For the complete schedule, please visit:

http://www.lib.ku.edu/hours/art_hours.shtml

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Also find the Spencer...

- **On the Web:** www.spencerart.ku.edu
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