A cross the country, there are some fasci- 
nating winter exhibitions that highlight some of the rarest and finest of Europe-
ian art and craftsmanship. From Hans Holbein the Younger and Jacques Louis 
David in New York to Bartolomé Esteban Murillo in Dallas.

A World First: French Painter Jacques Louis David’s Drawings

In the 18th century, neoclassical artist Jacques Lou-
is David convincingly conveyed timeless themes throughout his paintings, including political tur-
mol. As a supporter of the revolution, he painted French revolutionary history as it happened—even-
tually becoming Napoleon’s painter.

David often spent years refining an idea on paper 
and canvas before realizing the finished piece. Yet, sur-
prisingly, for such a celebrated artist, The Metropolitan 
Museum of Art in New York is showcasing the first major exhibition devoted to David’s works on paper.

Rare and seldom shown works are among the ex-
hibition’s more than 30 drawings and oil sketches, includ-
ing—for the first time in the United States—the “Oath of the Tennis Court,” which David was com-
missoned to paint but never did.

The “Jacques Louis David: Radical Draftsman” exhib-
tion opens on Feb. 17 and runs until May 15. To fi-
nd out more, visit MetMuseum.org

A US First: Hans Holbein

the Younger’s Portraits and More

Preeminent 16th-century German painter Hans Holbein the Younger is best known for his nuanced portraits of English Renaissance gentry. But visitors to the upcoming “Hans Holbein: Capturing Char-
acter” exhibition at The Morgan Library & Museum in New York will be able to see that Holbein created so much more.

The exhibition is the first major U.S. show dedi-
cated to Holbein’s entire career, from his artistic beginnings in the book trade in Basel, Switzerland, to the height of his career at King Henry VIII’s court in England.

In addition to his myriad portraits, exhibition vis-
itors will see that Holbein—designed prints, printed books, personal devices (emblems with mottos) and even poems.

The “Hans Holbein Capturing Character” exhibit-
tion opens on Feb. 11 and runs until May 15. To fi-
nd out more, visit TheMorgan.org

A Rare Spanish Gem: Murillo’s Prodigious Son Paintings

For the first time ever, America will be able to see the “Mu-
ritz: Painting the Prodigal Son” exhibition at the Meadows Museum in Dallas, which will be the first major collection of celebrated 17th-century Spanish artist Bartolomé Esteban Murillo’s prodigious son paintings—including a series of five engravings on the subject, occasioned by the National Gallery of Ireland (NGI).

The NGI’s Prodigal Son series is the only series of 
Murillo’s paintings to survive completely intact and represents the first time a Spanish artist illustrated the parable in its entirety. Exhibition visitors will also be able to see the Na-
tional Gallery of Art’s Murillo painting “The Return of the Prodigal Son” for the first time since its recent restoration.

The “Murillo: Painting the Prodigal Son” exhibi-
tion opens on Feb. 20 and runs until June 12. To fi-
nd out more, visit MeadowsMuseumDallas.org.

Dutch and Flemish Brilliance: Realistic Fine Art Fiction

For centuries artists have depicted the four seasons 
in their artworks to celebrate the harmony of nature. But drawing on the author’s imagination to craft a 
vision—improved and highly selective—has been more common in literature. Consider a novel: “based on truth and life experience, but drawing on the author’s imagination to craft a spec-
fic vision—an improved and highly selective view of reality, if you like.” The exhibition explores 
the visions these artists conveyed.

The “Clouds, Ice, and Bounty: The Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Collection of Seventeenth-Century Dutch and Flemish Paintings,” exhibition, at the Na-
tional Gallery of Art in Washington.

The paintings on display show a cross-section of 
fine Dutch and Flemish art. But visitors shouldn’t be fooled by the realistic scenes. Exhibitions cur-
ator Betty Weissman suggests, in an exhibition video, that visitors think of each painting as if they would consider a novel “based on truth and life experiences, but drawing on the author’s imagination to craft a spec-
fic vision—an improved and highly selective view of reality, if you like.”

The exhibition explores 
the visions these artists conveyed.

The “Clouds, Ice, and Bounty: The Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Collection of Seventeenth-Century Dutch and Flemish” exhibition runs until Feb. 27. To fi-
nd out more visit, NGA.gov

At the Cleveland Museum of Art: “Four Seasonal Summer: Harvest Scenes,” late 1520s–early 1700s, Gobelins Manufactory (France, Paris). Gift of Frances Ginn, Morton Ginn, Jones, Barbara Ginn 
Greenege, and Alexander Ginn in memory of Frank 
Hedley Ginn and Cornelia Root Ginn, The Cleveland 
Museum of Art.

A US Winter Exhibitions

19 2023. To find out more, visit ClevelandArt.org


The Cleveland Museum of Art: “Simon George Griesinger, and Alexander Ginn in memory of Frank 
Hedley Ginn and Cornelia Root Ginn, The Cleveland 
Museum of Art.

The Cleveland Museum of Art: “The Oath of the Tennis Court,” 1791, by Jacques Louis David. Pen and brown ink, pen and black ink, brush and 

LORRAINE FERRIER

ART WORTH VISITING

National Gallery Of Ireland: “An English Warship Firing a Salute,” 1791, by Jacques Louis David. Pen and brown ink, pen and black ink, brush and 

At the National Gallery of Art: “An English Warship Firing a Salute,” 1791, by Jacques Louis David. Pen and brown ink, pen and black ink, brush and 

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