

## communiqué /press release

### For immediate release

## EXPLORING ROME: PIRANESI AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES

Coming this Fall at the Canadian Centre for Architecture

**Montréal, 16 June 1993** – This exhibition, comprising drawings, sketchbooks, prints, books, letters, and manuscripts from the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York, the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA), and private collections in New York, and Toronto, is concerned with those eighteenth-century artists, collectors, and antiquarians who, through their studies and explorations in Rome, created and spread a new vision of antiquity. During the eighteenth century, Rome was both an important centre for Italian art and the focal point for the studies of most European artists; all were drawn by the city's antique art, architecture, and statuary, as well as its Renaissance, Baroque, and eighteenth-century masterpieces. The lure of antique art and architecture was intensified by the excavations being carried out in and around Rome, as well as those at Herculaneum (1738) and Pompeii (1748), which increasingly attracted artists, travellers, and collectors from all over Europe. The contacts and friendships that resulted had an important effect on the way art was commissioned, collected, and viewed.

**Exploring Rome: Piranesi and His Contemporaries** at the CCA from 17 August 1993 to 2 January 1994 will present not only the vitality and diversity of the artistic community in eighteenth-century Rome, but the far-reaching effects Rome had on European artists and architects.

This exhibition was originally organized by and shown at the Pierpont Morgan Library, New York, in 1989. The Morgan Library houses the largest and most important collection of Piranesi drawings. The exhibition has been expanded and adapted, with the CCA, for this exclusive showing outside New York. While the exhibition was essentially built on the strength of the Morgan Library's holdings, the version mounted at the CCA will include works from its own collection by Piranesi, Giuseppe Vasi, Filippo Juvarra, Pietro Bracci, Jean-Laurent Legeay, Gabriel-Pierre-Martin Dumont, Jean-Charles Delafosse, Ennemond-Alexandre Petitot, Louis-Jean Desprez, and Charles De Wailly; some of these artists were not included in the original exhibition at the Morgan

Library and will add a new dimension to the scope of this exhibition. In conjunction with this exhibition, the Morgan Library and the CCA will publish jointly a scholarly catalogue of the exhibition in English. In addition, the CCA will produce a dépliant in separate English and French editions. Insurance for this exhibition has been provided by Communications Canada.

The exhibition was organized in New York by Cara Dufour Denison, Curator of Drawings and Prints and by Stephanie Wiles, Associate Curator of Drawings and Prints at the Pierpont Morgan Library. For the showing in Montréal they have collaborated with Myra Nan Rosenfeld, Research Curator at the CCA.

A program of activities, including lectures and concerts, will complement the exhibition by exploring topics related to both the visual and musical arts in eighteenth-century Italy.

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Information: [www.cca.qc.ca/press](http://www.cca.qc.ca/press)