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A Five College Curatorial Collaboration: A City in Flux: Reflecting on Venice on View At SCMA



NORTHAMPTON, MASS. (October 6, 2025) –[The Smith College Museum of Art \(SCMA\)](#) presents [A City in Flux: Reflecting on Venice](#), an installation that explores the shifting identity of Venice and its enduring power to inspire artists across centuries. On view from September 19, 2025 through March 22, 2026, the exhibition is curated by undergraduate students at UMass Amherst and draws upon the Five Colleges' rich collections of drawings, photographs, prints, and paintings.

Organization of this exhibition was facilitated by Monika Schmitter, Professor of History of Art & Architecture at UMass Amherst and Danielle Carrabino, Curator of Painting and Sculpture at SCMA. The student curators are Amelia Bachand, Leonard Bonn, Gianna Bruzzese, Gabriela Cueto-Melendez, Emma Hoffman, Arlo Kellie, Sunil Kumar, Mattea

Lo-Sears, Sophia Lubin, Hannah McIver, Alejandra Salvà Martorell, and Kate Zelley. The exhibition is the result of their work in the spring 2025 course *Curating Views of Venice*.

For centuries, artists both local and foreign have responded to Venice's paradox, its permanence and fragility, grandeur and intimacy. From the vedute (or "views") of the eighteenth century to contemporary works exhibited at the Venice Biennale, the city has been imagined as both timeless and ever-changing. *A City in Flux: Reflecting on Venice* brings together works that reflect Venice's dual identity: a city of enduring beauty and a springboard for imagining new worlds.

"It was a wonderful experience working with Monika and her students on this project. They brought their discussions and ideas about Venice from the classroom to SCMA, including new and updated research about the works," said *Danielle Carrabino, Curator of Painting and Sculpture at SCMA*.

Student curators identified new findings as part of their research for the exhibition. Gianna Bruzzese, a recent graduate of UMass Amherst explains, "I researched the *View of the Doge's Palace and Saint Mark's Basilica from the Grand Canal*. The most interesting part about this research is that it was originally put under Michele Marieschi in the files, but I actually found that it wasn't by that artist. I emailed back and forth with an art historian who specialized in Venetian paintings, and he helped me figure out, actually, who did paint this. It was likely Gaspare Diziani. So it's not actually by Marieschi, but it's still a very well-detailed, immaculate image." said Gianna Bruzzese.

"Exhibitions like *A City in Flux* embody the essence of SCMA as a teaching museum. By placing students at the center of the curatorial process, we not only advance scholarship but also model how museums can be dynamic spaces for learning, collaboration, and discovery. Their research sheds new light on the works of art in our care and demonstrates the enduring relevance of Venice as a site of artistic imagination and cultural dialogue," said Jessica Nicoll, Director and Louise Ines Doyle '34 Chief Curator of SCMA.

Special thanks also go to colleagues at the Mead Art Museum at Amherst College and the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum for their collaboration. This exhibition is supported by the Suzannah J. Fabing Programs Fund for the Smith College Museum of Art.

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About SCMA/ Smith College Museum of Art

As a teaching museum affiliated with Smith College, the Smith College Museum of Art (SCMA) connects people to art, ideas, and each other. SCMA collects, researches, presents, and preserves an expansive collection of art in the service of learning, teaching, and critical dialogue, fostering an inclusive and accessible environment that welcomes diverse perspectives and inspires imagination.

Open year-round Tuesday through Sunday, 11am–4pm, SCMA invites the public to explore four floors of galleries and the Museum Shop. Visitors encounter a world-class collection that spans ancient times to the present and encompasses the arts of Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. The Cunningham Center for the Study of Prints, Drawings and Photographs houses one of the region's most comprehensive collections of works on paper.

In November 2023, SCMA received support from the Art Bridges Foundation through its “Access for All” initiative. Alongside generous gifts from alumnae Jan Fullgraf Golann ’71 and Jane Timken ’64, this funding enabled SCMA to eliminate admission fees and invest in initiatives that expand access to art, including extended hours, innovative programming, and student outreach.

An accredited member of the American Alliance of Museums, SCMA is a founding member of Museums10, a regional cultural collaboration, and is also a member of the College Art Association and the New England Museum Association.

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