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## **Della Grafica Veneziana. The Age of Anton Maria Zanetti (1680-1767)**

**10 February – 3 April 2016**

Opening: Tuesday, 9 February 2016, at 6 p.m.

The image of eighteenth-century Venetian prints is overwhelmingly shaped by vedutas of the city on the lagoon and enigmatic cycles of engravings imbued with artistic imagination. Yet in the midst of the many illustrious names such as Giambattista and Domenico Tiepolo, Marco Ricci and Canaletto, one important and energetic figure remains almost unknown: Anton Maria Zanetti the Elder (1680-1767), art collector, connoisseur, publisher, wood-engraver.

Zanetti trained as an artist in his youth and frequented the most famous studios of the day. Coming from a privileged background, he played an eminent role in the cultural life of Venice and cultivated a wide range of longstanding friendships throughout Europe. Contemporary sources described him as an art lover who devoted his entire life to art, especially to drawing and printmaking. His enthusiasm was so ardent that he actively encouraged many artists in his circle, most notably including Marco Ricci and Giambattista and Domenico Tiepolo, to adopt engraving and work on new cycles of prints. He himself focused his attention on the older, sixteenth-century technique of coloured woodcuts, with which he reproduced his substantial collection of drawings by Parmigianino, introducing them to connoisseurs throughout Europe.

The exhibition presents the famous views of Venice and the equally fascinating *Scherzi*, *Capricci* and *Grotteschi* by Giambattista Tiepolo and Giovanni Battista Piranesi. In doing so, it seeks to highlight, for the first time, the significant role played by Zanetti within the context of eighteenth century Venetian printmaking.

The exhibition has been made possible thanks to the generous donation of Venetian prints from the collection of Karin and Cesare Morini, received in 2014. These works of outstanding quality have filled an important gap in the collection of the Graphische Sammlung ETH.

For further information and visual material:

Dr. Michael Matile, curator of the exhibition, tel. 044/632 78 75 or matile@gs.ethz.ch

### **The exhibition will be accompanied by a publication:**

Della Grafica Veneziana. Das Zeitalter Anton Maria Zanettis (1680-1767), with texts in German by Michael Matile, Alberto Craievich and Isabelle Scheck, Petersberg: Michael Imhof Verlag, 2016; approx. 220 pages and 150 illustrations, approx. CHF 45.-, ISBN 978-3-7319-0330-7 (due March 2016).