

Press Release
Zurich, October 2016

The True Treasures of a Banker. Prints and Drawings from the Collection of Heinrich Schulthess-von Meiss

9 November 2016 – 5 February 2017

(The exhibition will be closed during the festive period from 23 December 2016 to 3 January 2017.)

Zurich is a financial centre hub that harbours many an exciting tale. One of those tales involves the generosity, erudition and cultural involvement of banker Heinrich Schulthess-von Meiss (1813-1898). Equipped with a knowledge as deep as his pockets, he succeeded in putting together a collection of artworks that spans almost the entire history of prints and drawings between 1450 and 1800. His passion for collecting and his enthusiasm for works on paper bestowed a remarkable legacy that has made the ETH Zurich's Collection of Prints and Drawings one of the world's most important repositories of its kind. In 1894, his bequest to the ETH, comprising some 12,000 works of copperplate engravings, etchings and woodcuts dating from before 1800, placed these artworks in the public hand.

The first exhibition marking the **150th Jubilee of the Collection of Prints and Drawings (1867-2017)** highlights this bequest while at the same time bearing witness to its close affinities with the history of the city itself. 80 precious prints – among them works by Albrecht Dürer, Rembrandt van Rijn and Francisco de Goya – have been brought from the darkness of the archives into the light. With this, the exhibition opens a window onto the artistic viewpoints of the early modern era and showcases some of the very finest aspects of the genre by way of example of exquisite prints whose quality of reproduction remains, to this day, unsurpassed.

The exhibition showcasing the collection of one of their forebears is kindly supported by the Schulthess family foundation in a year that coincides with the 600th anniversary of their being granted citizenship of Zurich.

Opening: 8 November 2016, 6 p.m.

Welcome address: Dr Linda Schädler, director of the Collection of Prints and Drawings ETH Zurich
Introduction: Dr Michael Matile, curator of the exhibition

For further information:

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Exhibition catalogue:

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The Department of Prints and Drawings is part of ETH Library.