



## Press Release

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[smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/about/press](http://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/about/press)

### **Smart Museum of Art receives the single largest foundation gift in its history**

The University of Chicago's Smart Museum of Art received a \$1.25 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in order to sustain, strengthen, and extend its academic and curricular initiatives. Of the \$1.25 million grant, \$250,000 was spendable funds, used while the Smart Museum secured matching funds in the form of a \$750,000 bequest from Eloise Martin. The successful completion of the match creates a new endowment of \$1.75 million.

Since 1992, support from the Mellon Foundation has spurred new scholarship and strengthened connections between the University of Chicago and the Smart Museum. The Museum's multifaceted Mellon Program fosters collaboration between the Museum and faculty, encourages the integration of the Smart's exhibitions and collection into the University curriculum, and supports the publication of original research.

"The Smart Museum has long been characterized by programs and exhibitions rooted in the intellectual life of the University of Chicago," said Anthony Hirschel, the Dana Feitler Director of the Smart Museum of Art. "Now, thanks to the generosity of the Mellon Foundation, we will be able to pursue these dynamic collaborations with even greater confidence and ambition."

On view from February 10 to June 5, 2011, *The Tragic Muse: Art and Emotion, 1700–1900* is the first Smart Museum project to benefit from increased Mellon Foundation support. A yearlong series of faculty workshops attended by nine University of Chicago scholars from a variety of fields helped lay a rich intellectual groundwork for the exhibition and its accompanying catalogue, which together examine the visual representation of tragedy and art's power to express and elicit intense emotions.

Additional information about the Smart Museum's Mellon Program can be found online at [smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/learn/university/mellon](http://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/learn/university/mellon).

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### **About the Smart Museum of Art**

As the art museum of the University of Chicago, the Smart Museum of Art is home to acclaimed special exhibitions and a permanent collection that spans five thousand years of artistic creation. Working in close collaboration with scholars from the University of Chicago, the Smart has established itself as a leading academic art museum and an engine of adventurous thinking about the visual arts and their place in society.

#### **Smart Museum of Art**

#### **The University of Chicago**

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Chicago, IL 60637

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#### **Hours**

Tues, Wed, Fri 10 am–4 pm

Thurs 10 am–8 pm

Sat and Sun 11 am–5 pm

Galleries closed Mondays and holidays

Café and Museum Shop open daily

**Admission is always free**