

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

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**BLANTON MUSEUM IS ONE OF FIVE MUSEUMS
TO RECEIVE A GIFT OF SPANISH COLONIAL ART FROM
THE COLECCIÓN PATRICIA PHELPS DE CISNEROS**



This donation of works will enhance the museum's renowned collection of Latin American art and provide significant study opportunities

AUSTIN, Texas—June 16, 2017—The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin will receive a gift of 83 works of art from The Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros (CPPC), inspired by the Blanton's commitment to exhibiting and studying art from Latin America's colonial and early republican periods. This commitment is reflected in the Blanton's two newly opened galleries dedicated to art of the Spanish Americas, the long-term loan of the Carl & Marilyn Thoma Collection to the Blanton, and the recent appointment of an associate curator specialized in the field. In total, the CPPC will donate 119 pieces from its collection of colonial art to five museums across the Americas, with the goal of increasing the geographical and temporal horizons of these institutions' collections, expanding scholarship, and offering a more diverse and inclusive vision of Latin American artistic production from the 17th century to the mid-19th century.

“The Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros is pleased to donate a significant number of works from our colonial collection to the Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas, Austin. We chose five exemplary institutions to receive works, with their individual profiles, strengths, and needs in mind. The other four are the Denver Museum of Art; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Museo de Arte de Lima [MALI] and the Hispanic Society of America, New York. The Blanton has long been highly regarded as an authority for scholarship in the field of art from Latin America, and we wish to support the museum’s interest in the colonial period, and the rich potential for interdisciplinary study across the UT campus” said Patricia Phelps de Cisneros.

The gift includes 36 pieces of furniture, ten of which were made by the Baltimore-born cabinet maker Joseph P. Whiting, active in Caracas since 1824. It also features a collection of 46 artifacts that include paintings and triptychs of small scale, created for private devotion. Among the latter, there are works attributed to 18th-century painters Juan Pedro Lopez, José Lorenzo Zurita, and the famous yet unidentified Maestro del Tocuyo (of west-central Venezuela). With all these works, the Blanton will be able to consolidate its teaching mission by offering a unique perspective on the colonial period, going beyond the study of the Viceroyalty capitals of Peru and Mexico as the main centers of artistic creation.

“The Blanton is extraordinarily honored to have been chosen by the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros to receive these great examples of artistic production from the Spanish colonial era,” said Blanton Director, Simone Wicha. “This gift helps to strengthen the museum’s recent expansion into collecting and exhibiting art of the Spanish Americas. We are thrilled to be able to share these works with our diverse audiences and to have them be at the center of a vibrant, cross-campus initiative—forged in collaboration with LILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections and other colleges and schools across UT—focused on increasing knowledge around art from this period.”

About the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros

Founded in the 1970s by Patricia Phelps de Cisneros and Gustavo A. Cisneros, the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros (CPPC) is one of the core cultural and educational initiatives of the Fundación Cisneros. Based in New York City and Caracas, Venezuela, the CPPC’s mission is to enhance appreciation of the diversity, sophistication, and range of art from Latin America; advance scholarship of Latin American art; and promote excellence in visual arts education. The CPPC achieves these goals through the preservation, presentation, and study of the material culture of the Ibero-American world—ranging from the ethnographic to the contemporary. The CPPC’s activities include exhibitions, public programs, publications, grants for scholarly research and artistic production, and a website that was created to offer a platform for debate concerning the immense contributions of Latin America to the world of art and culture.

For more information, visit www.coleccioncisneros.org

About the Blanton Museum of Art

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with nearly 18,000 objects. Recognized for its modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and encyclopedic collection of prints and drawings, the

Blanton offers thought provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.

The museum is located at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Congress Avenue and is open Tuesday through Friday from 10–5, Saturday from 11–5, and Sunday from 1–5. Thursdays are free admission days and every third Thursday the museum is open until 9. Admission Prices: Adults \$9, Kids 12 and under FREE, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth/College Students (13–21) \$5. Admission is free to members and all current UT ID-holders. For additional information, call (512) 471-7324 or visit www.blantonmuseum.org

Image captions:

1. Anonymous Venezuelan Painter from the School of Caracas, *San Francisco de Asis*, 18th century, oil on canvas, 75 x 46.5 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Gift of Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, 2016. Photo Courtesy of Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros.

2. Anonymous Venezuelan Painter from the School of Tocuyo, *La Dolorosa*, 18th century, oil on canvas mounted on wood panel, 13 9/16 x 11 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Gift of Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, 2016. Photo Courtesy of Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros.

3. Joseph P. Whiting (Maryland, ca. 1800 – Panama, 1849, active in Caracas since 1824), *Butaca*, ca. 1830, mahogany, cedar, and stenciled gilding, 38 1/2 x 27 x 28 1/2 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Gift of Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, 2016. Photo Courtesy of Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros.