



# THE CORSINI

COLLECTION A WINDOW ON RENAISSANCE FLORENCE 2 SEP 17 – 21 JAN 18

**MEDIA RELEASE**

TUESDAY 11 JULY 2017

**AUCKLAND  
ART GALLERY  
TOI OTAMAKI**

**Regional  
Facilities Auckland**  
An Auckland Council Organisation

Overleaf

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**Sandro Botticelli and Workshop**  
*Madonna and Child with Six Angels* circa 1500  
tempera and oil on board  
Florence, Galleria Corsini



## MEDIA RELEASE

TUESDAY 11 JULY 2017

# The Renaissance Art Collection of a Powerful Italian Family comes to Auckland

Exhibition partners

GALLERIA  
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The art and lives of a Florentine dynasty will be revealed in Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki's new exhibition *The Corsini Collection: A Window on Renaissance Florence* which opens on Saturday 2 September 2017.

Drawn from the extensive private art collection of the eminent Corsini family in Florence, Italy, the exhibition features Renaissance and Baroque painting by artists such as Botticelli, Caravaggio, Andrea del Sarto, and Pontormo.

It will be the first time these artworks have toured outside Italy and the first time a Florentine private collection will be displayed in Aotearoa New Zealand.

*The Corsini Collection* provides a window onto the Corsini family's continuing passion for art and their ongoing loyalty to the city of Florence, which has prevailed through the devastation of World War II and the inescapable forces of nature during the flood in Florence in 1966.

Auckland Art Gallery Director Rhana Devenport says it is a privilege to exhibit this exceptional collection in New Zealand.

'Our audiences will have the opportunity to experience the fascinating history of an extraordinary family, who turned their love and passion for art into a true vocation, gathering artworks that spans from the fifteenth to the twentieth centuries,' she says.

Preserved over time, these masterpieces, as well as fascinating historical objects, will demonstrate the period's celebration of the fine and decorative arts in an immersive Gallery experience.

The story of Florence will also be explored throughout the exhibition. Often called the cradle of the Renaissance, Florence saw a growth of independence in its political, economic and religious spheres. These developments arose from families, such as the Corsini, who strove to influence the way their city held its place within broader Italian politics.

Portraits, landscape, mythological, daily life and religious paintings, as well as sculpture, works on paper, furniture, costumes, embroidery, games, kitchen equipment and a lavish dining room set for six, will portray the life of this family at the Corsini Palazzo and their patronage of the arts.

The exhibition has been curated by Dr Ludovica Sebgondi with Auckland Art Gallery's Mary Kisler, Senior Curator, Mackelvie Collection, International Art.

Mary Kisler, who spent time in Italy researching the collection, says the exhibition is a perfect window on the world of Florence, both historically and today.

'*The Corsini Collection* has many insights and stories to share about Florence. It tells of a great Italian family, of politics, of the church, of war and wealth and of course it tells the story of their art.'

This exhibition is organised by the Galleria Corsini, Florence; Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki; Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth and MondoMostre, Rome, with the support of the Italian Embassy, the Italian Cultural Institute, Sydney and Dante Alighieri, Auckland.

*The Corsini Collection: A Window on Renaissance Florence* will be accompanied by a visitor programme and special events that will celebrate Italian culture in the heart of Auckland city.

The exhibition is exclusive to Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki in New Zealand. It later travels to the Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, where it will be presented from February 2018.

(ends)

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For further information, high res image requests and interviews, contact:

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## Exhibition details:

*The Corsini Collection: A Window on Renaissance Florence*

When: Saturday 2 September 2017 to Sunday 21 January 2018  
10am – 5pm daily except Christmas Day

Where: Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki  
Corner Kitchener and Wellesley Streets  
Auckland, New Zealand

## Pricing:

Adult ..... \$19  
Concession ..... \$15  
Family pass ..... \$60  
(two adults and two concessions)  
Children 12 and under ..... Free  
Auckland Art Gallery Members ..... Free

## Cover image:

**Sandro Botticelli and Workshop**  
*Madonna and Child with Six Angels* circa 1500  
tempera and oil on board  
Florence, Galleria Corsini





**Florentine Painter after Francesco Rosselli**  
*The Execution of Savonarola and Two Companions  
 at Piazza della Signoria* 16th–17th century  
 oil on canvas  
 Florence, Galleria Corsini



**Anton Domenico Gabbiani**  
*Glorification of the Corsini Family: Sketch for  
 the Ceiling Fresco of the Presentation Room  
 of the Palazzo* 1694–95  
 oil on canvas  
 Florence, Galleria Corsini

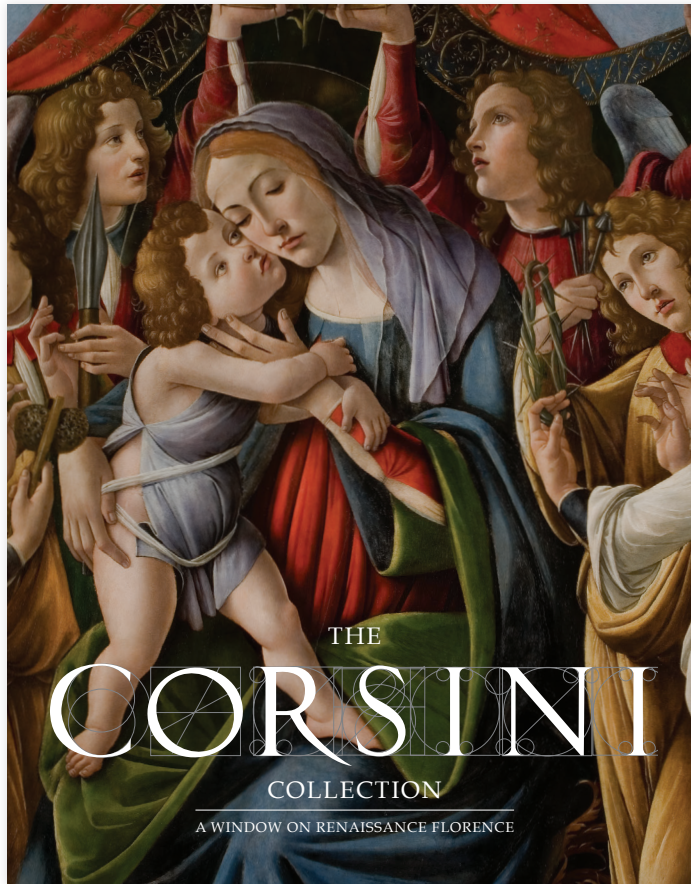


**Matteo Rosselli**  
*The Triumph of David* 1610  
 oil on copper  
 Florence, Galleria Corsini





# THE CORSINI COLLECTION: A WINDOW ON RENAISSANCE FLORENCE



This beautifully illustrated book tells the centuries-long story of an extraordinary private art collection and the family who have cared for it. The Corsini family, a powerful and influential Florentine dynasty, have been art patrons and collectors for hundreds of years. The family's singular collection, travelling to Australasia for the first time, includes work by artists such as Botticelli, Andrea del Sarto, Caravaggio and Jacopo da Pontormo, and provides a unique view of the intersection between politics, religion, family and art.

Three essays on the Corsini family history, Renaissance and Baroque Florence and art, and the conservation work carried out on the artworks introduce readers to the collection and provide a context for understanding its significance. Reproductions of works in the exhibition with texts written by curators help unlock the meanings behind individual works and offer insight into the artists' working methods and influences.

*The Corsini Collection: A Window on Renaissance Florence* is a must-have souvenir from a once-in-a-lifetime exhibition.

RRP: \$30  
186 × 240 mm  
148 pages  
70 full-colour images