



FACT SHEET

***Salvador Dalí: Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso* June 11-Sept. 18, 2016**

This exhibition features an exquisite group of Salvador Dalí woodblock prints, recently accessioned into the FAC's permanent collection. These woodblock prints feature depictions of chapters from Dante's *The Divine Comedy*.

The 28 gorgeous woodblock prints were assembled by and gifted to the FAC from Welkin Sciences, LLC. The collector, having an interest in Surrealism, attended the FAC's exhibition of René Magritte and *Collections Surréaliste* in 2015. Seeing examples of similar works on display in the galleries, he offered these 28 Dalí prints as a gift to the museum and the gift will be exhibited in its entirety.

The FAC has a wonderful collection of works on paper, many relating to the institution's history as an exceptional center for printmaking in the United States. These woodblock prints make an outstanding addition to the FAC's permanent collection, especially complementing the extensive assembly of works on paper and expanding the holdings of significant European artists.

The permanent collection of the FAC is continually expanding, largely due to generous gifts from dedicated supporters. Through the thoughtful selection process, only works that fit into the scope of the existing collection and that are highly exhibitable are accepted.

Salvador Dalí (1904-1989)

Salvador Dalí, one of the most infamous of the Surrealists, was highly imaginative, flamboyant, eccentric, and renowned for his great skill as a painter as well as in a variety of other media. Dalí was a contemporary of Surrealist Kay Sage, as well as Herbert Bayer and Roberto Matta, all of whom are represented in the FAC's permanent collection.

Salvador Dalí's Divine Comedy series was originally commissioned in the early 1950s by the Italian government to celebrate the 700th birthday of Dante Alighieri by illustrating his preeminent poem about the journey through the underworld and into the afterlife. Although Dalí's commission was eventually revoked due to public outcry, Dalí persisted in completing the six-volume set, produced with support from French publisher Joseph Forét.

Initially created as 101 watercolor drawings, 100 of the works were reproduced using a wood engraving process. Three editions of the complete *Divine Comedy* were produced: 4,765 in French, 3,188 in Italian, and 1,000 in German. The original watercolors are now widely scattered and the plates from many of the volumes have been removed and sold individually as separate works of art.