PRESS RELEASE

POMONA COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART presents “GOYA’S WAR: LOS DESASTRES DE LA GUERRA”

Jan 17. – May 14, 2017

Claremont, CA – Pomona College Museum of Art presents “Goya’s War: Los Desastres de la Guerra,” on view from Jan. 17 to May 14, 2017. A public reception will take place from 5-7:00 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28.

“Goya’s War” presents the complete set of 80 etchings published as Los Desastres de la Guerra (The Disasters of War) in 1863. Francisco de Goya y Lucientes (1746-1828) etched the 80 plates that comprise the set in reaction to the horrors of the Napoleonic invasion of Spain and the political turmoil that followed. Created 200 years ago, these prints remain relevant to our world. Individual prints continue to be used as illustrations in contemporary political commentary.

Given their subjects of death, brutality, and the impact of war on civilians of all ranks and ages, *Los Desastres de la Guerra* are not easy to look at, and perhaps for this reason are rarely exhibited in their entirety. A collaboration of the Pomona College Museum of Art and the University Museums, University of Delaware, this exhibition and the accompanying catalogue present all 80 prints of the fine first edition from the collection of the Pomona College Museum of Art. It is curated by Goya scholar Janis Tomlinson, Director of the University Museums of the University of Delaware.

Tomlinson proposes a departure from the traditional installation that follows the sequence of etchings imposed some years after they were created and standardized in the first edition of 1863. Breaking with the published sequence, she invites us to consider the artist’s endeavor within its historical context by presenting the etchings in five groups - Carnage, Atrocity, Martyrdom, Famine, and Emphatic Caprices—that reveal Goya’s clear stylistic evolution over the four years (1810-14) during which he etched these plates.

Short introductions to each of the five sections offer new research on both the war and on life in Madrid, where Goya lived throughout this dark period. The very materials used by the artist corroborate this chronology. As the war progressed, the copper needed for the etching plates became scarce and to conserve material the plate and image size were diminished. We become newly aware of Goya’s accomplishment, as we imagine him obsessively recording the accounts he heard, or inventing nightmares of atrocity that remain relevant today.

Goya’s reflections of the brutality of war have inspired generations of artists—Manet, Picasso, Otto Dix, Warhol, the Chapman brothers, and Enrique Chagoya. Hillary Mushkin, the founder of Incendiary Traces, has also been deeply influenced by Goya’s work. “Project Series 51: Incendiary Traces,” the Pomona College Museum of Art’s exhibition of Incendiary Traces’ work, will be presented concurrently with “Goya’s War.” Taking Goya’s series as a starting point, “Incendiary Traces” explores contemporary human and technological visualizations of conflict zones.

The exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue, with essays by Tomlinson and Kathleen Stewart Howe, the Sarah Rempel and Herbert S. Rempel ’23 Pomona College Museum of Art and Professor of Art History.

This exhibition is a collaboration of the Pomona College Museum of Art and the University Museums of the University of Delaware. It is curated by Janis Tomlinson, Director, University Museums, and circulated by the Pomona College Museum of Art. Following its inauguration at the University of Delaware, the exhibition traveled to the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville, TN; The Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavillion at the University of Illinois, Urbana - Champaign; The Colorado State University Art Museum, Fort Collins, CO. The final stop of the tour returns it to the Pomona College Museum of Art, Claremont, CA.

About the Curator: Tomlinson is the author of six books on Goya and on Spanish painting, and was the U.S. Curator for the exhibition, *Goya: Images of Women* (Museo del Prado, Madrid; National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, 2001-2). Her writings have been translated into six
languages, and she has lectured and contributed to exhibitions on the artist at museums and universities in the U.S. and Canada, Europe, Mexico and South America.

**Museum Information**

The Museum collects, preserves, exhibits and interprets works of art; and houses a substantial permanent collection as well as serving as a gallery of temporary exhibitions. Important holdings include the Kress Collection of 15th- and 16th-century Italian panel paintings; more than 5,000 examples of Pre-Columbian to 20th-century American Indian art and artifacts, including basketry, ceramics and beadwork; and a large collection of American and European prints, drawings and photographs, including works by Francisco de Goya, José Clemente Orozco, and Rico Lebrun.

**ADMISSION**

All exhibitions and programs are free of charge and open to the public.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

330 North College Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711
Tuesday through Sunday, 12-5 p.m., Closed Mondays
*Art After Hours: Thursday, 5-11 p.m., Jan. 19 – Apr. 27, 2017*

*Art After Hours* offers a variety of programming including live music concerts sponsored by KSPC 88.7 FM, lectures, panels, workshops, tours, film screenings, and performances in conjunction with Museum exhibitions.

For more information, please call 909.621.8283 or visit [www.pomona.edu/museum](http://www.pomona.edu/museum).