

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ISABELLA
STEWART GARDNER
MUSEUM**

**Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Announces Anne-Marie Eze
as its First Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow**

Eze to work with Gardner Museum curators and scholars to research exhibitions and special projects relating to the Gardner's Italian furniture and books and manuscripts collections



BOSTON, JUNE 11, 2010 – The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, is pleased to announce Anne-Marie Eze as its first Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow. Eze, a London-based art historian and scholar recently received her PhD from the Courtauld Institute in London. Eze will research exhibitions and special projects relating to the Gardner Museum's collection of books and manuscripts and Italian furniture, which is among the finest of its kind in America and the subject of a new catalogue currently in production by the Gardner.

Born and raised in London, Anne-Marie Eze also calls Italy home, having lived there off-and-on since 1998. Eze holds a B.A. with Honors in classics and a M.A. in library and information studies with a specialization in manuscript studies and historical bibliography, from University College London. She also trained as a librarian at Trinity College Library in Cambridge, England, and has worked as an assistant curator at London's Victoria and Albert Museum, in the Photographs department and, later, on the Medieval and Renaissance Galleries project. Eze recently completed an Arts and Humanities Research Council collaborative doctorate in the history of art at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, and the department of Western Manuscripts of the British Library with a thesis on the infamous Venetian priest-turned-art dealer Abbé Luigi Celotti (1759-1843) and a catalogue of the Library's collection of Italian illuminated miniatures. Her dissertation focused on the collecting of manuscripts in the 19th century.

"Isabella Gardner was a patron of young artists and scholars in her day," says Anne Hawley, the *Norma Jean Calderwood Director* of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. "We're pleased to name Anne-Marie Eze as the first post-doctoral Andrew W. Mellon Fellow as a continuation of that long history."

Reflecting Isabella Gardner's legacy of supporting scholars and thinkers of her day, today, historic art and scholarship remains a central aspect of the Gardner Museum's mission – and the centerpiece of the museum's five programming areas, in addition to contemporary art, music, landscape, and education. The museum presents regular historic special exhibitions, often rooted in new research and scholarship, and conducts and publishes new scholarship and catalogues based on the historic collection and Gardner's history of collecting. The museum regularly welcomes visiting scholars and curators to contribute to the museum's exploration of the history of art and scholarship. Anne-Marie Eze is the museum's first Mellon postdoctoral fellow.

About the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum • <http://www.gardnermuseum.org> • 280 The Fenway Boston MA 02115 • Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm • Admission: Adults \$12; Seniors \$10; Students \$5; Free for members, children under 18, everyone on his/her birthday, and all named Isabella • \$2 off admission with same-day Museum of Fine Arts ticket stub • Info: 617.566.1401 • Box Office: 617 278 5156 • The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum is a work of art itself intended to fire the imagination of all who visit. The collection features 5,000 art objects spanning 30 centuries and many cultures, including works by Botticelli, Titian, Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Degas, and Sargent, in addition to sculpture, furniture, tapestries, and manuscripts. The Gardner was the first museum of its kind in America to display a major art collection in an intimate atmosphere. It is the only museum in which the collection, building, and installation are entirely the creation of one woman. The historic building was designed by architect Willard T. Sears. In order to preserve Isabella Gardner's historic museum building, collection, and legacy "for the education and enjoyment of the public forever," the Gardner Museum has embarked on construction of a new wing slated to open to the public in early 2012. Designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano and the Renzo Piano Building Workshop as a work of art itself, respectful and worthy of Isabella Gardner's original, the new wing will relieve pressure on the historic museum building and collection, while improving visitor services and creating new, function-specific space for vibrant programming in the areas of: historic and contemporary art; music; landscape; and education and community. www.buildingproject.gardnermuseum.org

About the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation ▪ <http://www.mellon.org/> ▪ The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation currently makes grants in five core program areas: Higher Education and Scholarship; Scholarly Communications and Information Technology; Museums and Art Conservation; Performing Arts; and Conservation and the Environment. The Foundation's grantmaking philosophy is to build, strengthen and sustain institutions and their core capacities, rather than be a source for narrowly defined projects. As such, the Foundation develops thoughtful, long-term collaborations with grant recipients and invests sufficient funds for an extended period to accomplish the purpose at hand and achieve meaningful results.

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EDITORS' NOTE ▪ Interviews and access to the museum for members of the media can be arranged through the press office.