

# NOMA

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## RENAISSANCE MASTERPIECES, RESTORED

*“Veronese in Murano” Travels to NOMA in April*

**NEW ORLEANS, LA** – The New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA) presents *Veronese in Murano*, a focused exhibition featuring two Renaissance masterpieces by the celebrated artist Paolo Veronese (1528– 1588). NOMA is honored to be the second and final venue for the paintings, titled *St. Jerome in the Wilderness* and *St. Agatha Visited in Prison by St. Peter*, on view April 19 through September 3, 2018. The exhibition was organized by The Frick Collection in New York City in honor of the full restoration of the works by Venetian Heritage, and with the generous support of BVLGARI. Though known to scholars, the paintings’ remote location in a church in Murano, an island in the lagoon of Venice known today for its glassmaking studios and shops, made them difficult to access and study. *Veronese in Murano* marks the first time the restored masterworks have been exhibited outside Italy since their creation 450 years ago.

“The Veronese masterworks complement NOMA’s strength in Northern Italian art, particularly works from 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century Venice,” said Susan Taylor, NOMA’s Montine McDaniel Freeman Director. “We are pleased to be able to present these magnificent paintings to the people of the city of New Orleans.”

In 1566, the Venetian priest Francesco Degli Arbori commissioned *St. Jerome in the Wilderness* and *St. Agatha Visited by St. Peter in Prison* for a small chapel the priest had built just outside the church and convent of Santa Maria degli Angeli. *St. Jerome in the Wilderness* was placed over the main chapel altar, and facing it over the entry door was *St. Agatha Visited by St. Peter in Prison*. For his chapel, the priest chose Saint Jerome as a model because the saint had translated the Bible into Latin, and Saint Agatha for her exemplary piety as an early Christian martyr. The dynamic movement of the figures, bold modeling, and open and scintillating brushwork combined with high-keyed color create a dramatic effect, representing Veronese at the height of his abilities.

To protect the two canvases from the humidity of the chapel and from the risk of theft, the nuns of Santa Maria degli Angeli moved them inside the main church in 1667. By the early nineteenth century, the two paintings had been transported to another church in Murano, San Pietro Martire. *St. Jerome in the Wilderness* has been exhibited outside the church only once—in 1939— while *St. Agatha Visited in Prison by St. Peter* has not left the church since being installed in the early nineteenth century.

“Because these works had never left the small island of Murano until their recent renovation, there is certainly mystery surrounding them,” said Vanessa Schmid, NOMA’s Senior Research Curator for European Art. “We are delighted to have the opportunity to showcase Veronese’s vibrant style and theatricality.”

### **Credit line/Catalogue**

During 2016–17, the two Veronese masterpieces were fully restored by Venetian Heritage, thanks to the sponsorship of BVLGARI, which initiated thorough research on the history of the paintings. The accompanying publication, *Veronese in Murano: Two Venetian Renaissance Masterpieces Restored*, includes essays which review the genesis of the paintings in their original context, and a full analysis of the conservation treatment.

### **Additional information**

[Access press-approved exhibition images](#)

Facebook and Instagram: @noma1910

Hashtag: #nomaveronese

Website: [www.noma.org](http://www.noma.org)

Learn more about [St. Jerome in the Wilderness](#) and [St. Agatha Visited in Prison by St. Peter](#), courtesy of The Frick Collection

Learn more about the [history of the paintings](#), courtesy of The Frick Collection

### **About NOMA and the Besthoff Sculpture Garden**

The New Orleans Museum of Art, founded in 1910 by Isaac Delgado, houses nearly 40,000 art objects encompassing 5,000 years of world art. Works from the permanent collection, along with continuously changing special exhibitions, are on view in the museum's 46 galleries Fridays from 10 AM to 9 PM; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 AM to 6 PM; Saturdays from 10 AM to 5 PM and Sundays from 11 AM to 5 PM. NOMA offers docent-guided tours at 1 PM every Tuesday - Sunday. The adjoining Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden features work by over 60 artists, including several of the 20th century's master sculptors. The Sculpture Garden is open seven days a week: 9 AM to 6 PM. The New Orleans Museum of Art and the Besthoff Sculpture Garden are fully accessible to handicapped visitors and wheelchairs are available from the front desk. For more information about NOMA, call (504) 658-4100 or visit [www.noma.org](http://www.noma.org). Wednesdays are free admission days for Louisiana residents, courtesy of

The Helis Foundation. Teenagers (ages 13-19) receive free admission every day through the end of the year, courtesy of The Helis Foundation.

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