

THE PORTLAND VASE

Mania
and Muse



HIRMER

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HIRMER

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THE PORTLAND VASE: MANIA AND MUSE

Rachel Gotlieb, Ph.D.

FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Portland Vase: Mania and Muse delves into the fascinating journey of the ways a single classical vase rose to legendary status, shaping and influencing art and commerce across time and space. With a showcase of more than sixty artworks, this exhibition not only explores the influence of brands on our culture but also questions why classical traditions continue to dominate the artistic landscape, as well as how this tradition can be re-evaluated and disrupted.

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the artists featured in the exhibition, as well as those who contributed new works, supplied images, and loaned their artworks. Our special thanks go to Chris Antemann, Stuart J. Asprey, Glenn Barkley, Squeak Carnwath, Laurent Craste, Nicole Cherubini, Michael Eden, Hitomi Hosono, Beth Lo, Roberto Lugo, Peter Pincus, Nancy Selvin, Mara Superior, Peter James Smith, Clare Twomey, Alice Walton, and Chris Wight.

We want to express our deep appreciation for the generous support provided by Leslie Ferrin of Ferrin Contemporary Gallery, Mindy Solomon of Mindy Solomon Gallery, and Peter Ting of Ting-Ying Gallery, who played a crucial role in facilitating the shipping of artworks by featured artists. We also remember and acknowledge the late Malcolm McHenry for his generosity. Janet Mohle-Boetani, M.D. and Mark Manasse similarly provided meaningful support of this exhibition. We are indebted to Cynthia de Bos at the Artists' Legacy Foundation, who generously shared the archives and research of Viola Frey.

Our thanks also extend to the institutional lenders: Adrian Sassoon Gallery, Artists' Legacy Foundation, Birmingham Art Museum, Cleveland Art Museum, Corning Museum of Glass, di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art, Leicester Museums and Galleries, the Mathematics & Bioengineering Library at the University of California, Berkeley, and September Gallery. We especially appreciate the contributions of private collectors and "china hunters" Jeffrey Ruda, Conrad Biernacki, and Brian Musselwhite.

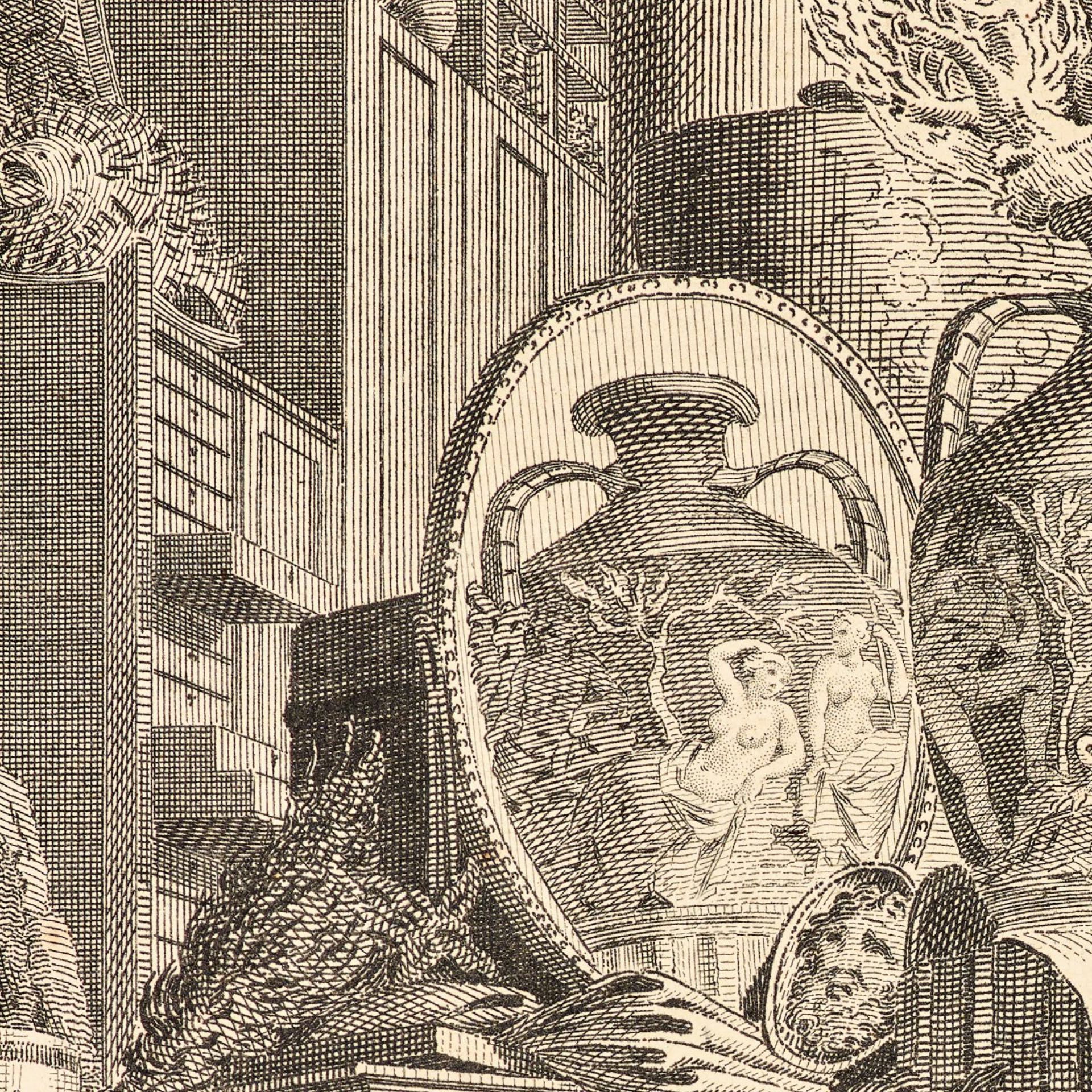
Anne Forschler-Tarrasch, Director of Collections & Exhibitions and Senior Curator, The Marguerite Jones Harbert and John M. Harbert III Curator of Decorative Arts, not only facilitated important loans from the Birmingham Art Museum but also provided an insightful essay on the history of the Portland Vase and Josiah Wedgwood's obsession with making the perfect replica.

At the Crocker Art Museum, we extend our sincere appreciation to the Co-Trustees and Scott A. Shields, Ph.D., Ted and Melza Barr Chief Curator and Associate Director, for their unwavering support of this exhibition. Mariah Briel provided an invaluable role as the project manager and editor of this catalogue. Furthermore, we are grateful for the contributions of Caitlin Schwarz and Jessica Barclay, who expertly organized loans, shipping, and condition reporting. Matthew Isble, Steven Higgins, and Tait Takai were responsible for the exhibition's installation. Gérard Vuilleumier deserves special mention for his exceptional photography of many of the artworks and ephemera featured in the catalogue. Lastly, we thank Phyllis Graham for her assistance in securing published articles related to the Portland Vase.

Our gratitude extends to Hirmer Publishers for their outstanding work in producing a beautiful catalogue. Their team, including Elisabeth Rochau-Shalem as senior editor, Rainer Arnold as project manager, Michael Pilewski as copyeditor, and Lucia Ott as the graphic designer, played a pivotal role in this endeavor.

Lial A. Jones
Mort and Marcy Friedman Director & CEO
Crocker Art Museum

Rachel Gotlieb, Ph.D.
Guest Curator







LUCK

The joy of the streets of Moscow, for use off the space satellites.

PAST