

**The International Caravaggesque Movement –
Dutch, French and Flemish Caravaggesque Paintings From the Koelliker Collection**20th June – 15th July 2005, Mon – Fri, 10am – 6pm
Press and Private View – Tue, 28th June, 6-9pm**ROBILANT+VOENA**1st Floor, 38 Dover Street, London W1S 4NL
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Edmondo di Robilant and **Marco Voena** are pleased to announce the opening of the exhibition *The International Caravaggesque Movement – Dutch, French and Flemish Caravaggesque Paintings From the Koelliker Collection*, which will take place at their new gallery at 38 Dover Street between the 20th June and the 15th July.

The aim of the exhibition will be to show a representative selection of works by those artists from all over Europe who flocked to Rome and helped to fuel the great revolution in painting instigated by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (1573-1610). On returning home, they continued to disseminate, and also to alter, the Caravaggesque style they had learnt in their youthful years. They kept it alive and also transmitted it to the following generations. The exhibition effectively represents these various phases.

It will present works by some of the exponents of the first Italian phase in the movement, such as Finson, Baburen and Régnier, with paintings executed during their period of residence in Italy (undoubted masterpieces in the case of Baburen and Régnier). Painters who also spent a formative period in Rome during the second decade of the seventeenth century, such as Terbrugghen, Honthorst and Vignon, will be represented by works they painted after their return home, when their Caravaggism was tempered and their own personal style sometimes assumed more sophisticated or jovial accents or even more crudely Nordic connotations. These transalpine versions of Caravaggism would impact in turn on the following generations and once again inspire a naturalistic phase almost entirely spent at home (when the visit to Italy had become less crucial), as in the case of Bronckhorst, De Coster and Van Kuyl (here represented by one of his acknowledged masterpieces, *Joseph Interpreting Dreams*). Mathias Stomer, by contrast, would be inspired to embark on a long period of residence in Italy, working in Rome, Naples and Sicily, and succumbing, undaunted, to the long-standing passion for Caravaggesque naturalism.

On exhibition will be over fifteen paintings, accompanied by a full academic catalogue written by Gianni Papi and Jonathan Bikker.

The Koelliker collection is one the most important private Italian art collection, and comprises over two thousand paintings, mostly from the Baroque and Caravaggesque schools. Luigi Koelliker's collecting passion, inspired during his youth, has since developed and expanded in the manner of the grand collections of the past. Countless works of art, sculpture, furniture, scientific and musical instruments, clocks and *wunderkammer* objects populate his house-museum, destined to become a public cultural foundation. **ROBILANT+VOENA** are pleased to be able to present some of the masterpieces from this collection to the British public, and are proud to have this important exhibition as the inaugural show at their new premises at 38 Dover Street.

For more information, images and literature please contact Mira Dimitrova, mira@dirobilant.com.

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