



MIT MUSEUM PRESS RELEASE

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FRONT + BACK: Investigating a Renaissance Drawing

Compton Gallery @ 77 Massachusetts Ave.
[Building 10](#), Room 150

September 29, 2006 – December 22, 2006
Opening Reception: Friday, September 29, 5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

Cambridge, MA (August 2006)— On September 29, 2006, The MIT Museum's Compton Gallery will open *FRONT + BACK: Investigating a Renaissance Drawing*. *FRONT + BACK* is the first public presentation of a large sixteenth-century architectural drawing recently donated to the Museum by MIT alumnus Hugh Shepley.

Created in late-Renaissance Rome, its front depicts a grand classical palace façade viewed in dramatic one-point perspective. In the exhibition, a close investigation of the hand-made paper, pen-and-ink drawing, and numerous inscriptions provide clues to contextualize the work: its author, date, subject and purpose, location. Of equal interest is the back of the drawing, which displays ample evidence of a long and eventful history.

Studied and handled by generations of owners, the sheet experienced many wounds and losses that received carefully executed repairs, making it an extraordinary case-study in the history of preservation. The Compton Gallery exhibition provides an in-depth and an engaging, in-the-round look at a treasured example of Italian Renaissance architectural drawing.