

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**THE DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE CELEBRATES 25 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY WITH FREE ARCHITECTURAL TOURS OF BUILDING**



WELLESLEY, Mass. – The Davis Museum at Wellesley College is celebrating its 25th anniversary with architectural tours for the campus community and the public. On October 21, 1993, the Davis Museum hosted a dedication ceremony for the new four-story, 61,000 square foot building designed by Spanish architect José Rafael Moneo. The Museum opened with four floors and eleven galleries of works of art on view, study rooms for the students, a 167-seat cinema, and a café.

“Since the Davis opened its door in 1993, the encyclopedic collection has grown from 5,000 to 13,000 objects with areas of strength in painting, sculpture, works on paper, photography, and decorative objects, from antiquity to the present day,” said Lisa Fischman, Ruth Gordon Shapiro ’37 Director of the Davis Museum. “In addition, the collection has become accessible worldwide through the online collections site, the mobile app, and third-party repositories Google Cultural Institute and Artsy. We will continue to work on new ways to engage our local community, as well as students, scholars, and art lovers around the world.”

The Davis Museum is the fourth home to the collection on campus. The Wellesley art collection, initiated by Henry Fowle Durant and Pauline Durant with the founding of the College in 1875, was originally displayed in great College Hall, the primary residential and classroom building. It was later housed in the Farnsworth Art Building, founded in 1889, and then in Paul Rudolph’s 1958 Jewett Arts Center, a masterpiece of mid-century Modern architecture.

In 1993, the Davis Museum opened its doors and soon after, the building’s designer, Rafael Moneo, was awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize. This facility, Moneo’s first North American commission, immediately distinguished the Davis among its academic museum peers, and among the art museums and cultural institutions of the Greater Boston area. The building also rearticulated and revitalized the longstanding commitment to the central role of the visual arts in undergraduate liberal arts education at Wellesley College.

After completing the design of the Davis Museum, Rafael Moneo commented, “The artworks in the collection are like memories of those alumnae who lived here and who thought there could be no better place than Wellesley to which to leave the objects they loved so much. Therefore, I very much wanted the Museum to be understood as a treasury, a treasury that speaks about the lives of those people who received their education here.”

The Davis Museum will create a mobile app in honor of the 25th anniversary, which includes a tour of the building and historical background. The Davis app will be available for download at:

<http://app.thedavis.org>.

ARCHITECTURAL TOURS

Campus Community Architectural Tour

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

12:30 p.m., Davis Museum Lobby

Introductory remarks by Lisa Fischman, Ruth Gordon Shapiro '37 Director of the Davis

Refreshments at conclusion of tour

Free

Public Drop-In Tour

Saturday, October 27, 2018

2 p.m., Begins in Davis Museum Lobby

Free

ABOUT THE DAVIS MUSEUM

One of the oldest and most acclaimed academic fine arts museums in the United States, the Davis Museum is a vital force in the intellectual, pedagogical, and social life of Wellesley College. It seeks to create an environment that encourages visual literacy, inspires new ideas, and fosters involvement with the arts both within the College and the larger community.



Generous Support to the Davis Museum is provided by Massachusetts Cultural Council.

ABOUT WELLESLEY COLLEGE AND THE ARTS

The Wellesley College arts curriculum and the highly acclaimed Davis Museum are integral components of the College’s liberal arts education. Departments and programs from across the campus enliven the community with world-class programming—classical and popular music, visual arts, theatre, dance, author readings, symposia, and lectures by some of today’s leading artists and creative thinkers—most of which are free and open to the public.

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been the preeminent liberal arts college for women. Known for its intellectual rigor and its remarkable track record for the cultivation of women leaders in every arena, Wellesley—only 12 miles from Boston—is home to some 2,400 undergraduates from 49 states and 58 countries.

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High-resolution images and interviews available upon request.