



**Exhibition of Zurbarán Masterworks From Auckland Castle  
Will Tour to Meadows Museum and The Frick Collection in 2017 and 2018**

Dallas (SMU)—August 1, 2016—The Meadows Museum at SMU announces a touring exhibition of life-size paintings by the Spanish Golden Age master Francisco de Zurbarán (1598–1664), on loan from Auckland Castle in England. Proposed by the Meadows—in collaboration with The Frick Collection, the Kimbell Art Museum, and the Auckland Castle Trust—the project includes an analysis of the paintings at the Kimbell’s noted conservation lab, as well as a scholarly publication about the unique history of this series, the most significant public collection of the artist’s work outside of Spain. The exhibition marks the first time these works will travel to the United States, and will premiere at the Meadows in September 2017, followed by a presentation at The Frick Collection beginning in January 2018.

Depicting the Old Testament figures Jacob and his Twelve Sons, the paintings are a visual narrative of Jacob’s deathbed act of bestowing a blessing on each son, blessings which foretold their destinies and those of their tribes. The works were purchased by Bishop Richard Trevor, Bishop of Durham, at auction in 1756 from the collection of a Jewish merchant named Benjamin Mendez. Trevor redesigned Auckland Castle’s Long Dining Room to house the series, seeing in the public presentation of these works an opportunity to make a statement about the need for social, political and religious understanding between Christians and Jews in the United Kingdom. The upcoming restoration of Auckland Castle—which involves the temporary desinstallation of the

series from the room where it has hung for more than 250 years—presents this extraordinary study and exhibition opportunity.

“Francisco de Zurbarán is one of the greatest masters from the Golden Age of Spanish painting, and we are thrilled to be bringing these works to the United States for study and presentation,” said Mark Roglán, the Linda P. and William A. Custard Director of the Meadows Museum. “In Dallas, the Meadows Museum’s rich collection of Spanish masters will allow visitors to experience *Jacob and his Twelve Sons* fully contextualized within the history and aesthetic traditions of Spanish art.”

### **About the Meadows Museum**

The Meadows Museum is the leading U.S. institution focused on the study and presentation of the art of Spain. In 1962, Dallas businessman and philanthropist Algur H. Meadows donated his private collection of Spanish paintings, as well as funds to start a museum, to Southern Methodist University. The Museum opened to the public in 1965, marking the first step in fulfilling Meadows’s vision to create “a small Prado for Texas.”

Today, the Meadows is home to one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Spanish art outside of Spain. The collection spans from the 10th to the 21st centuries and includes medieval objects, Renaissance and Baroque sculptures, and major paintings by Golden Age and modern masters. Since 2010 the Museum has been engaged in a multidimensional partnership with the Museo Nacional del Prado in Madrid, which has included the exchange of scholarship, exhibitions, works of art, and other resources.

###

### **CONTACT:**

Sascha Freudenheim  
PAVE Communications  
sascha@paveconsult.com  
917-544-6057

Carrie Hunnicutt  
Meadows Museum  
chunnicutt@smu.edu  
214-768-1584