For Immediate Release

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**The Muscarelle Museum of Art Announces**

**Opening of Hiroshige Print Exhibition**

**Series Features 250 Hiroshige Prints Never Before Displayed Together; Japanese Artist Considered Master of the Ukiyo-E Style**

Williamsburg, Va. (Dec. 16, 2015) -- The Muscarelle Museum of Art is pleased to announce the opening of ***Hiroshige’s Tokaido***on Feb. 4, 2016.

This exhibition explores the most traveled road in old Japan with fresh eyes. Featuring approximately 250 prints, the exhibition presents five distinct complete sets of Hiroshige’s 53 Stations of the Tokaido never before displayed together. ***Hiroshige’s Tokaido*** immerses the viewer in a panoramic view of the Tokaido, as well as Hiroshige’s romance with the landscape of Japan.

For the first time ever, five important sets of the fifty-three stations by Hiroshige are shown together: the Hoeido in 1833/34; the Kyoka, c. 1840; the Gyosho, c. 1842; the Tsutaya, c. 1850; and the Upright Tokaido in 1855.

“We are delighted to host this significant collection, which will certainly enchant our visitors,” said Aaron De Groft, director and CEO of the Muscarelle. “All five sets are complete and have never been compared side by side. All sets are ‘early,’ with the original *Hoeido* and the *Kyoka Tokaido* (bound) dating to the 1830s, the *Gyosho Tokaido* from the 1840s and the other two sets from only 20 years later. Stunning individually, to have five complete sets in one exhibition is extraordinary.”

The exhibition was curated by David Libertson, director of Ronin Gallery (William & Mary ’09 and member of the Muscarelle Museum Board of Trustees).

Hiroshige was a Japanese ukiyo-e artist, and he is considered to be one of the last great masters of that tradition. All works in this exhibition are on loan from the Ronin Collection of the Ronin Gallery in New York.

The exhibition will be on view through Aug. 21, 2016.

**About Hiroshige’s Tokaido**  
Traveled as early as the 8th century, the Tokaido traced the eastern coastline of Japan. At the beginning of the 17th century, ruling power shifted from the emperor to the shogun, inviting an unprecedented level of activity on the road. By 1689, 53 stations connected the Eastern Capital of Edo (modern Tokyo), the seat of the shogun, to Kyoto, the Imperial capital. The Tokaido was the most traveled road in Japan: a 323-mile artery providing the backbone of trade and communication until the arrival of railways during the Meiji period. While novels, guidebooks, paintings and prints extolled the adventures of life on the road long before the *Hoeido Tokaido*,Hiroshige’s 55-piece set of woodblock prints captured the spirit of adventure like never before. Through changing seasons and viewpoints, *53 Stations of the Tokaido* guides the viewer through each station, each veritable microcosm of Edo-period culture, as they journey from Edo’s Nihonbashi to the Sanjo Bridge in Kyoto.

**About the Artist**

Known as the “poet of travel,” Hiroshige was born in Edo in 1779. He grew up in a minor samurai family and his father belonged to the firefighting force assigned to Edo Castle. While he entered his apprenticeship in 1811, Hiroshige’s artistic genius went largely unnoticed until 1832 with his groundbreaking series, 53 Stations of the Tokaido. In 1858, at the age of 61, he passed away as a result of the Edo cholera epidemic. However, the legacy of Hiroshige’s work profoundly influenced the Impressionists and Post-Impressionists of Europe: Toulouse-Lautrec was fascinated with Hiroshige’s daring diagonal compositions and inventive use of perspective, while van Gogh literally copied two prints from *100 Famous Views of Edo* in oil paint.

**About The Ronin Collection**  
The Ronin Collection is the private collection of the Ronin Gallery, a leading family-owned Japanese and East Asian art gallery in New York City, and the largest private collection of 17th-21st century Japanese prints for sale in the United States. Founded in 1975 in the Explorers Club Mansion of New York City, the Ronin Gallery is now located at Madison Ave. and 49th St. For more information about the gallery and to access the gallery’s online exhibitions, visit roningallery.com.

**About the Muscarelle Museum of Art**

The Muscarelle Museum of Art is located on the campus of William & Mary at 603 Jamestown Rd in Williamsburg, Va. For more information, call 757-221-2700 or visit muscarelle.org. Follow on Twitter (@Muscarelle), Instagram (@muscarellemuseum) or on Facebook (Muscarelle Museum of Art). Admission is $10 during this exhibition. Admission is free to members, William & Mary students, faculty and staff, as well as children under the age of 12.

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