

PRESS RELEASE***Rousseau 300: Nature, Self and State***

A celebration of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's tercentenary at UCL Art Museum

Exhibition dates: 9 January – 27 April 2012

This exhibition features rare items from UCL's art and book collections to mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of one of the most controversial authors in the history of philosophy, Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778).

Among the items on show are first editions of Rousseau's works, including *On the Social Contract* (*Du contrat social*, 1762), frontispieces and translations. The display highlights his unique and interdisciplinary characteristics as a philosopher who not only wrote on politics, economics and education, but also composed music and wrote best-selling novels. A significant part is dedicated to Rousseau's engagement with the philosophical tradition (from Plato to Locke) and his own posthumous reception by revolutionaries and conservatives alike.

Rousseau 300 is a collaboration between the UCL Centre for Transnational History, UCL Art Museum and UCL Special Collections. Featuring objects from UCL's collections, the British Museum and the Voltaire Foundation, the show coincides with an international conference marking Rousseau's tercentenary and a special performance of his rarely produced opera, *Le Devin du village* (UCL, Conference dates: 19-21 April, Opera performances: 20 January and 20 April).

Notes for editors

1. The exhibition is located at UCL Art Museum, South Cloisters, UCL, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT, +44(0)20 7679 2540, www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/uclart. Admission is free, and the exhibition is open to the public Mon-Fri 1-5pm.
2. UCL Art Museum is a dynamic space for teaching, research and exhibition. Located in the heart of UCL's main Bloomsbury campus in a traditional print room, UCL Art Museum is uniquely positioned to support interdisciplinary research and share this with a broad audience. It's collections hold over 10,000 works of art from the 1490s to the present day. Highlights include old master prints and drawings including Dürer, Rembrandt, Van Dyck (16th-century German and Italian; 17th & 18th-century French, Dutch and Flemish), 18th-20th-century English prints and drawings, including Turner and Constable, and an unrivalled body of sculpture models and drawings by the Neo Classical sculptor John Flaxman. The collection of student prizewinning paintings, drawings and prints, and in recent years media work from the Slade School of Fine Art is an unparalleled resource for the study of art education in Britain, collected from the 1890s and to the present day.
3. For more information about the exhibition please or contact Dr. Nina Pearlman, Manager, UCL Art Museum, +44 (0)20 7679 2821, n.pearlman@ucl.ac.uk
4. UCL Centre for Transnational History provides a forum for research and graduate training in the field of transnational history across different departments and faculties of UCL. The Centre aims to provide institutional support to individual and collaborative research projects in transnational history; if offers a framework for graduate studies in the field; and organises related seminars, lectures and workshops. For more information, see <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/cth/>
5. UCL Special Collections holds one of the foremost university collections of manuscripts, archives and rare books in the UK. For more information, see www.ucl.ac.uk/library/special-coll/