

Stradanus at Cooper Hewitt

Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum holds 143 sheets of drawings and inscriptions by the Netherlandish artist Johannes Stradanus, also known as Jan van der Straet (1523–1605). Beginning in 2021, Cooper Hewitt embarked on a project to conserve, research, and digitize Stradanus's drawings. As a result of conservation treatment and research, drawings and inscriptions that have been obscured for more than a century have been newly revealed.

To share the discoveries, Cooper Hewitt has launched a website with high-resolution images of the treated drawings and reconstructed sheets (CooperHewitt.org/Stradanus); a catalogue of the museum's Stradanus holdings, transcriptions, and translations of the newly revealed inscriptions; and detailed information about the conservation process. The proceedings of this symposium will be recorded and will appear on The Stradanus Project website in 2026.

Thursday, November 6, 2025

9:30 a.m.–9:45 a.m.

Opening Remarks

Maria Nicanor, Director, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York

Caitlin Condell, Associate Curator & Head of Drawings, Prints & Graphic Design Department, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York

9:45 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Panel I

Julia Siemon, Bard Graduate Center, New York

“Stradanus: Word and Image”

Karen Bowen, Unaffiliated

“Tracing the Distribution of Prints Designed by Johannes Stradanus”

Alessandra Baroni, Scuola dell'Arte della Medaglia, Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato, Rome

“Preparatory Sketch or Study After? New Reflections on the Chronology and Function of Stradanus's Drawings at Cooper Hewitt”

11:00 a.m.–11:15 a.m.

Coffee Break

11:15 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Panel II

Rebecca Pollak, The Morgan Library & Museum, New York

“Stradanus Drawings at Cooper Hewitt: Workshop Practice, Collecting Histories, and Conservation”

Heather Hendry, Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts, Philadelphia

“Considering Color Change in Iron Gall Ink Drawings: A Case Study in the Treatment of Stradanus Drawings”

Anders Svensson, Nationalmuseum, Stockholm

“Stradanus’s Corrections—A Case Study of the Drawing *The Battle of Marciano I*”

Jamie Kwan, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York

“Assembling Stradanus: Reconstructing Sheets and Binding Groups in Cooper Hewitt’s Collection”

3:00 p.m.–4:45 p.m.

Study Sessions I and II

Drue Heinz Study Center

Study Session I will begin at 3:00 p.m.

Study Session II will begin at 4:00 p.m.

Friday, November 7, 2025

9:30 a.m.–9:45 a.m.

Opening Remarks

Matilda McQuaid, Acting Director of Curatorial, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York

Caitlin Condell, Associate Curator & Head of Drawings, Prints & Graphic Design Department, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York

9:45 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Panel I

Anca-Delia Moldovan, University of Warwick, Coventry

“Sketching the Thread: Women and Silk Production in Johannes Stradanus’s Drawings”

Dontay Givens II, New York University, New York

“Phantasmagoric Landscapes, Hunting with Jan van der Straet”

Zoe Langer, Rare Book School at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville
Lia Markey, Center for Renaissance Studies, Newberry Library, Chicago
Gloria Moorman, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame
“Stradanus and Dante”

11:00 a.m.–11:15 a.m.

Coffee break

11:15 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Panel II

Kate Heard, Royal Collection Trust, Windsor

“‘Nobile Spectaculum’: Stradanus’s *Life of the Virgin* Revisited”

Joana Moura, Independent Researcher

“Stradanus’s ‘*Descent from the Cross*’: Connecting the Dots Dispersed Across Different Geographies”

Rhoda Eitel-Porter, Print Quarterly, London

“Stradanus and the Artist’s Studio”

3:00 p.m.–4:45 p.m.

Study Session III and IV

Drue Heinz Study Center

Study Session III will begin at 3:00 p.m.

Study Session IV will begin at 4:00 p.m.

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