

John Thomas Spike is a noted art historian, author and lecturer, specializing in Italian Renaissance and Baroque art. He is also an important critic of contemporary art and is past director of the Biennial of Florence. In 2007, Spike was named to the faculty of the Masters in Sacred Architecture, Arts and Liturgy organized by the European University of Rome and the Pontifical Athenaeum, 'Regina Apostolorum'. Spike was Distinguished Scholar in Residence at The College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia for the 2011 academic year. In 2012 Spike will join the faculty of The College of William & Mary and serve as Assistant Director and Chief Curator of The Muscarelle Museum of Art.

Born in New York City, Dr. Spike earned his Ph.D. at Harvard University. His thesis was the first complete study of the important Caravaggist painter, Mattia Preti (1613-1699). Among his many books on Mattia Preti is the *Catalogue Raisonné of the Paintings* (1999). As a result of this work, Spike was named an honorary citizen of Taverna, the city of Preti's birth.

During his career Spike has organized exhibitions and given lectures at many of the world's most important museums: the Pinacoteca Nazionale, Bologna; the Uffizi Gallery and the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale of Florence; the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Pierpont Morgan Library and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York; the Musée du Louvre, Paris; the Staatsgalerie in Stuttgart; the National Museum of Fine Arts, Valletta, Malta and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. He has also lectured at Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Oxford and the University of Malta. He is a consultant to the Museo Civico of Taverna and the Museo Civico of Urbania in Italy and the Wignacourt Museum, Mdina, Malta.

Since 2006 Dr. Spike has served on the Board of Trustees of the Muscarelle Museum of the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, one of the oldest universities in America.

He is the author of numerous books on the Italian Renaissance, including *Young Michelangelo: The Path to the Sistine* (editions, US 2010, UK 2011, Italian 2011). *Masaccio* (1996) and *Fra Angelico* (1997) were available in English, French and Italian; his *Fra Angelico* was also translated into German. In 2001, Dr. Spike published *Caravaggio*, a monograph with complete catalogue raisonné of the paintings; the Second Revised edition of *Caravaggio* with updated bibliography and text was published in 2010, in connection with celebrations for the 400th anniversary of the artist's death in 1610.

Spike's contributions to Italian culture have been recognized on numerous occasions, including Premio Anthurium, 1998, the Annual Medal of the Accademia delle Belle Arti di Messina, 2001, the Premio Anassilaos, 2002, and Man of the Year Award of the Tuscan-American Foundation in the Palazzo Vecchio, Florence, 2006. On November 8, 2011, Spike was named to the board of judges of the Sir Denis Mahon Essay Prize, Courtauld Institute, London.

Dr. Spike has written books and catalogues on many contemporary artists, including a biography, *Fairfield Porter: An American Classic* (1992). He wrote the Introductory Essay for the catalogue raisonné on *Richard Anuszkiewicz*, the leading American artist of the Op Art movement, published 2010. Between 1999 and 2005, Dr. Spike directed the International Biennial of Contemporary Art in Florence. In 2005 he also served on the juries of the Turku Biennial in Finland and the Triennial of India in New Delhi.

Since 1989, Dr. Spike has lived in Florence, Italy with his wife Michèle Kahn Spike, a lawyer and biographer of Matilda of Tuscany. They have one son, Nicholas.

