



**Media Contact**  
Gina Costa  
Phone: 574-631-4720  
Fax: 574-631-8501  
PO Box 368  
University of Notre Dame  
Notre Dame, IN 46556  
gcosta@nd.edu

*University of* **NOTRE DAME**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Snite Museum of Art Invites New Looks at an Old Favorite

*In Dialogue: Henry Mosler, Forging the Cross*  
On view January 10 through March 13, 2016

**NOTRE DAME, IN—January 4, 2016—**In the second of its occasional series of single-work exhibitions, the Snite Museum presents *In Dialogue: Henry Mosler, Forging the Cross* from January 10 through March 13, 2016. Curators invited scholars from various disciplines to give their insights on this hidden treasure from the Museum’s permanent collection in an effort to showcase the many interpretive possibilities a work of art can offer.



Visitors, too, will have an opportunity to add their voices to the mix by contributing their thoughts in a notebook in the gallery where others can read and share their ideas.

“Museum staff are always looking for ways to engage their audiences and to empower visitors,” said Cheryl Snay, Curator of European Art at the Snite Museum. “There is no single, definitive response to a painting or sculpture.

This exhibition demonstrates that different people can look at the same thing and arrive at different, but informed, conclusions,” she added.

Contributors include faculty and staff from the University of Notre Dame: Abigail Palko, Associate Director of the Gender Studies Program; Daniel Graff, Director of the Higgins Labor Program at the Center for Social Concerns; and William Purcell, Associate Director of Catholic Social Tradition and Practice.

--More--

The painting, which was given to the University of Notre Dame in 1950 by the artist's daughter, has been in storage for years in order to make room for newer acquisitions. Recently discovered archival material and related drawings in Cincinnati shed new light on Mosler's painting, underscoring the point that meaning doesn't stop when a work leaves the studio.

Henry Mosler was a German-born, Jewish-American artist who grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio. Early in his career, he worked for *Harper's Weekly* supplying illustrations of military life during the Civil War. After finishing his military service in 1863, he went to Europe, studying art at the Düsseldorf Academy and later in the studios of academic artists in Paris. He was the first American artist whose work was purchased by the French government and displayed at the Luxembourg Palace, then the country's prestigious museum of contemporary art. He returned to the United States in 1894, setting up his own studio in Manhattan, where he excelled at producing wholesome scenes of rural life.

*In Dialogue: Henry Mosler, Forging the Cross* is organized by the Snite Museum of Art and is supported by the Humana Foundation for American Art.

---

#### **RELATED EVENTS**

Winter reception Friday, February 12, 2016 5:00–8:00 p.m. Free and open to the public.

**Photo Caption:** Henry Mosler (American, 1841–1920), *Forging the Cross*, ca. 1904, oil on canvas, 46.5 x 67.25 inches (118.11 x 170.82 cm). Snite Museum of Art: Gift of Mrs. J. Fuller Feder, New York, 1950.003

For image requests, contact Gina Costa at 574-631-4720 or [gcosta@nd.edu](mailto:gcosta@nd.edu).

#### **The Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame**

The Snite Museum of Art is located on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, near South Bend, Indiana. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays noon–5:00 p.m. Admission is free. Museum information is available at 574-631-5466 or at the Museum's website: [sniteartmuseum.nd.edu](http://sniteartmuseum.nd.edu). Driving directions and parking information are available at <http://sniteartmuseum.nd.edu/visit-us/parking-information/>. Find us at [inthebend.com](http://inthebend.com) and [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/snitemuseum).

The Snite Museum of Art provides opportunities to enjoy, respond to, learn from, and be inspired by original works of art. As an integral unit of the University of Notre Dame, the museum supports teaching and research, furthers faith-based initiatives for greater campus diversity and service to the broader community; and reflects the traditions and values of the University.

**END**  
**385 words**