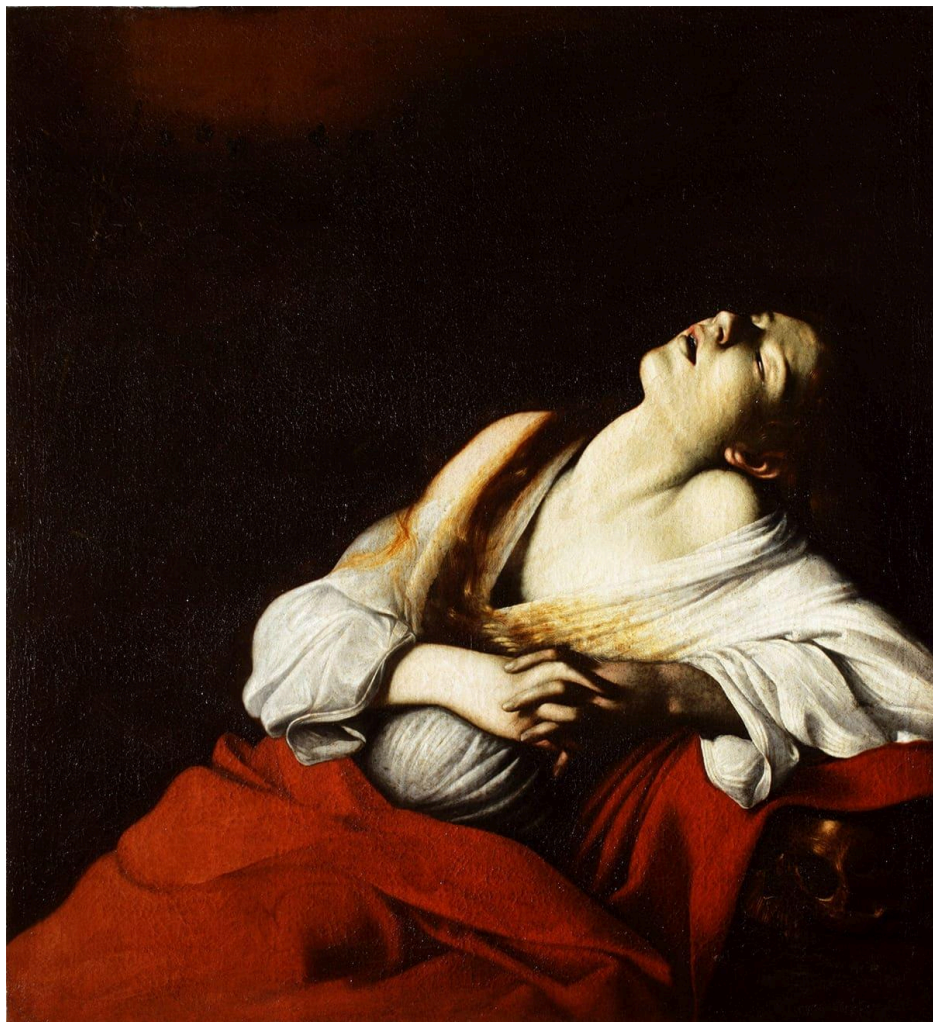




Embassy of Italy
New Delhi



Caravaggio Comes to India: Kiran Nadar Museum of Art and Italian Cultural Centre Unveil
Magdalene in Ecstasy



Magdalene in Ecstasy (1606), 40.75 in × 36 in

[Press Kit Link](#)

New Delhi, 6 April 2025: The Cultural Centre of the Italian Embassy, in partnership with The Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, proudly announces the historic arrival of Caravaggio's *Magdalene in Ecstasy* in Delhi on the occasion of the visit of Italian Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani and Minister for University and Research Anna Maria Bernini.



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“It’s the first time of a Caravaggio painting in India. This landmark exhibition offers a rare opportunity to experience the mastery of one of the Baroque era’s most influential artists. Caravaggio upended the traditional canons of his time, introducing in his works models from real life and a cinematic lighting”, commented the Italian Ambassador Antonio Bartoli.

Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (1571-1610), renowned for his revolutionary use of light and shadow, transformed the visual language of Baroque art with his emotive realism and masterful technique *Magdalene in Ecstasy* painted around 1606 while the artist was in exile after being charged with murder, is a poignant depiction of spiritual transcendence, exemplifying his signature chiaroscuro. This technique, which heightened the emotional and physical presence of his subjects, redefined the portrayal of the human form, lending it an unprecedented sensorial depth. Despite his tumultuous life, Caravaggio’s radical approach profoundly influenced Flemish artists and subsequent artistic movements, shaping the trajectory of European art in ways that continue to resonate today.

Following the unveiling of the painting at the Italian Cultural Center in the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister, the exhibition will be opened to the public at KNMA Saket from April 18 to May 30, 2025.

The project is part of an exclusive showcase dedicated to Caravaggio’s artistic legacy and its enduring impact on global art history. It will be supported by the screening of a series of documentaries and a VR experience offering visitors a deeper and more immersive engagement with Caravaggio’s world. Alongside the masterpiece, the show will feature a curated selection of discussions, and immersive educational programs aimed at deepening the understanding of Caravaggio’s artistic contributions.

Kiran Nadar, Founder & Chairperson, KNMA, said, *“Well aligned with KNMA’s mission to facilitate cross-cultural dialogue and expand access to transformative artistic experiences, this project offers a rare opportunity to our local audiences in particular, to view a Carravaggio painting, and encounter an artistic lineage that has fascinated generations of Indian artists. The arrival of ‘Magdalene in Ecstasy’ marks a significant moment in India’s engagement with Classical European Art, drawing our attention to painterly feats in easel painting in oil, the use of a dramatic chiaroscuro and mysterious lighting in their portraiture and narrative paintings.”*

Magdalene in Ecstasy was believed to be lost for centuries, its whereabouts unknown following Caravaggio’s tumultuous final years. In 2014, the painting resurfaced and was subsequently authenticated as an original masterpiece by a team of leading art historians, including renowned Italian scholar Mina Gregori. Its rediscovery was a groundbreaking moment in the art world, offering fresh insight into Caravaggio’s later works.

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Press Information

For further information, images, or to arrange interviews, please contact:

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Notes to Editor:

About KNMA

Established through the initiative of avid art collector Kiran Nadar, the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) opened to the public in January 2010 as India's first private museum dedicated to Modern and contemporary art from the subcontinent. With branches in New Delhi and Noida, KNMA is a non-commercial, not-for-profit institution supported by the Shiv Nadar Foundation. It seeks to foster a dynamic relationship between art and culture through its exhibitions, publications, educational initiatives, and public programs. Committed to institutional collaborations and artist support networks, KNMA actively engages with diverse audiences through its wide-ranging programming.

The museum's ever-expanding collection of over 15,000 artworks from South Asia features some of the most significant modernist and contemporary works. Now broadening its scope to include classical, folk, and tribal art, the collection spans historical trajectories from the 3rd century BCE to 20th-century Indian art, alongside the experimental practices of young contemporaries.

In the coming three to four years, KNMA is set to evolve into a landmark cultural destination with a new location, an expansive 100,000-square-meter (over 1 million square feet) architectural marvel, near the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi. It will feature multiple exhibition spaces, auditoriums, an archive centre, a library, restaurants, and a members room. Strengthening its role as a cultural epicenter, this expansion will further KNMA's mission to be a vibrant hub for visual and performing arts, fostering artistic innovation and cultural dialogue.

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