

The Dart Aphrodite

A RARE SCULPTURE IS DONATED TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTER AND DISPLAYED IN THE RONALD TUTOR CAMPUS CENTER.

WHAT DOES THE RONALD Tutor Campus Center have in common with the Musée du Louvre? More than you might think.

Stephen Dart, G. Michael Dart and Jane Dart Tucker have donated the “Dart Aphrodite” — a Greco-Roman marble sculpture of the goddess’s head that dates between 100 B.C. and 100 A.D. — to the Archaeological Research Center at USC. The center in turn is sharing the sculpture with the campus community. Those walking down a hallway on the second floor of the Tutor Campus Center can view the “Dart Aphrodite,” a close cousin of a sculpture in the world’s most famous museum.

John Pollini, professor of art history and history, inspired the donation by writing a paper on the “Dart Aphrodite” a decade ago.

When Jane O’Brien Dart, wife of former USC trustee Justin W. Dart and the owner of the sculpture passed away in 2009, her son

Stephen remembered Pollini’s essay and said they would like to give it to USC.

“After doing preliminary research on this previously unknown head of Aphrodite, I called Jane to tell her what I had discovered,” Pollini recalled. “Needless to say, she was delighted to learn about my findings.”

The “Dart Aphrodite” is considered an Arles-type depiction of the goddess because of its proportions, rounded features, chignon with hair band and graceful turn of the head.

The Louvre’s similar full-bodied Aphrodite statue was discovered in Arles, France, in 1651. Aside from the statue in the Louvre, the “Dart Aphrodite” — although missing its body — is the only known Arles-type marble head in existence.

“The appearance of this previously unknown head of the Arles Aphrodite type is an important addition to scholarship and the study of a sculptural type prized by both ancient Greek and Roman society,” Pollini said.

The Archaeological Research Center housed in USC Dornsife permanently loaned the rare piece through the Ronald Tutor Campus Center Art and Trojan Traditions program, which supports exhibitions and commissions for the new building. The “Dart Aphrodite” is displayed at the top of the Trojan Family Room staircase.



Read an essay by Professor John Pollini on the Dart family and the sculpture at dornsife.usc.edu/dart.

“Dart Aphrodite,” a Greco-Roman marble sculpture, dates between 100 B.C. and 100 A.D.



A Decade of Law, History and Culture

THE CENTER FOR LAW, HISTORY AND CULTURE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SCHOLARSHIP.

Since 2001, the Center for Law, History and Culture, based in USC Gould School of Law and USC Dornsife, has worked to cultivate the interdisciplinary field of law and the humanities. The center has stood at the cusp of a relatively new academic discipline that studies law as a historical and cultural institution.

“The joy of interdisciplinary work is that it’s often the most brilliant people who are most eager to take chances.”

Through seminars, conferences and junior scholars programs, the center explores law’s position at the nexus of society from a variety of theoretical perspectives.

In honor of 10 years of scholarship, the center hosted a two-day conference in February to examine how law and memory intertwine to record the past. The event included a series of panel discussions featuring experts in legal theory, history, psychology, literature, communications and

cultural studies who looked at law and memory in the context of war, legal trials, slavery, property and trauma.

Bringing together this community of scholars was exhilarating, according to Hilary Schor, professor of English, comparative literature, gender studies, and law.

“The joy of interdisciplinary work is that it’s often the most brilliant people who are most eager to take chances,” said Schor, who co-directs the center with Nomi Stolzenberg, professor of law, and Ariela Gross, professor of law and history. “They want to be pushed out of their comfort zone, to explore new worlds of thought, to hear from people who do something that challenges their work in an intelligent way.” —MS



For more information on the Center for Law, History and Culture, visit weblaw.usc.edu/centers/clhc.

