

Fundamentalism and Religious Art at Bob Jones University – Is There a Problem?

Cheryl Mims

HIUS 530 American Christian Heritage

Final Research Paper

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LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY

Agenda

- Introduction
- Bob Jones University
- Bob Jones, Jr.
- The Art Collection
- Legacy and Future Directions
- Conclusion
- Q. and A.



Founded in 1927; moved to Greenville, S.C. 1947

Figure 1. Front Campus Bob Jones University. License granted from BJU Photos, 3/11/24.

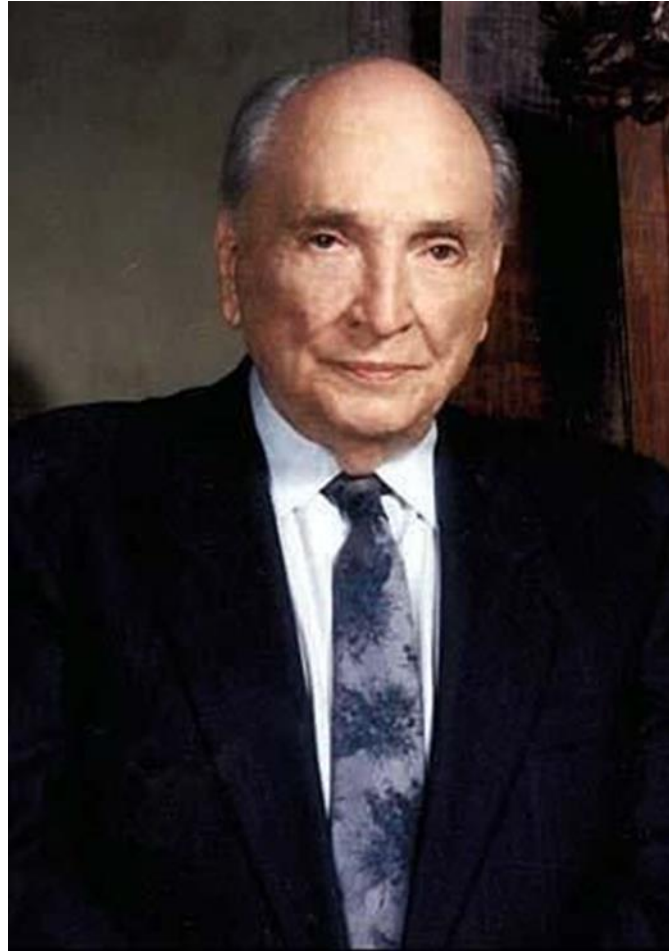


Figure 2. Bob Jones Jr., Second President and Art Museum Founder.
(No photographer, n.d.),
<https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/446067538064844203/>

On exhibiting paintings from the Roman Catholic tradition at a Protestant institution

- “...Western Christian imagery stems from this tradition...their place in the collection is in keeping with the philosophy of Bob Jones University...” and “Accordingly, we want our students to be well-grounded in their knowledge of various beliefs and philosophies whether or not we agree with them.”¹

• ¹ Bob Jones, Jr. foreword to Botticelli to Tiepolo Three Centuries of Italian Painting From Bob Jones University by Richard P. Townsend (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1994), 9.

1911-1997

- Master's in History, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 1933
- Shakespearean Actor
- President of BJU 1947-1971
- Chancellor 1971-1997
- Educator
- Evangelist
- Art Collector

The Art Collection

- Old Masters Paintings
 - Italian Baroque – 105 out of more than 400
 - Italian Gothic – mid 14th thru 18th and 19th centuries
 - Other periods and schools represented
 - Renaissance and Mannerism
 - Northern, Flemish, Dutch, Spanish, and French
- Benjamin West
 - Progress of Revealed Religion



St. John the Evangelist

c. 1625-28

Figure 3. St. John the Evangelist. Oil on canvas, 58 ½ x 50 1/16 inches by Domenico Zampieri, called Il Domenichino. Photograph in *Drama and Beauty: Great European Paintings From the Bob Jones Collection* (Lewes, UK: D. Giles, Ltd., 2022), 63.



St. Matthew

C. 1630's

Figure 4. St. Matthew. Oil on canvas, 40 $\frac{15}{16}$ x 35 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches by Guido Reni. Photograph in *Drama and Beauty: Great European Paintings From the Bob Jones Collection* (Lewes, UK: D. Giles Ltd., 2022), 65.



The Mocking of Christ
c. 17th Century

Figure 5. The Mocking of Christ. Oil on canvas by unknown French or Dutch follower of Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, 17th century, Museum and Gallery, Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC. [Object of the Month: April 2016 - Museum & Gallery \(musemandgallery.org\)](http://musemandgallery.org).

The Ascension of Our Lord

Benjamin West, 1781



Figure 6. The Ascension of Our Lord. Oil on canvas, 211 x 114 inches,
by Benjamin West, 1781, War Memorial Chapel, Bob Jones University,
Greenville, SC.

Legacy

- Museum and Gallery Closed in 2017
- Ways to View the Collection
 - Museum and Gallery Website
 - Tours
 - Exhibitions
 - Catalogues
- Museum to reopen in downtown Greenville, S.C. in the future

Museum and Gallery Website

museumandgallery.org



M&G
www.m&g.org

Transforming Lives through Fine Art

St. Gabriel the Archangel, Pre-Raphaelite mosaic

Online LEARNING

Beauty MATTERS

UPCOMING EVENTS

M & G at BOB JONES UNIVERSITY; 1700 Wade Hampton Blvd - Greenville, SC 29614

864.770.1331 contact@museumandgallery.org

The image is a promotional banner for the Museum and Gallery website. On the left, a large mosaic of St. Gabriel the Archangel is shown in profile, wearing a blue and gold striped robe and holding a staff. The mosaic is set within a circular frame. To the right, the website logo 'M&G' and 'www.m&g.org' are displayed in the top right corner. Below the logo is a decorative flourish. The main text 'Transforming Lives through Fine Art' is written in a large, elegant, white serif font. Below this text is another decorative flourish. At the bottom of the banner, there are three small rectangular images: 'Online LEARNING' showing an open book, 'Beauty MATTERS' showing a close-up of the mosaic, and 'UPCOMING EVENTS' showing a portrait of a man. The background of the banner is a light blue color.



Power and Piety in 17th-Century Spanish Art

Thru July 28, 2024

Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, Ga.

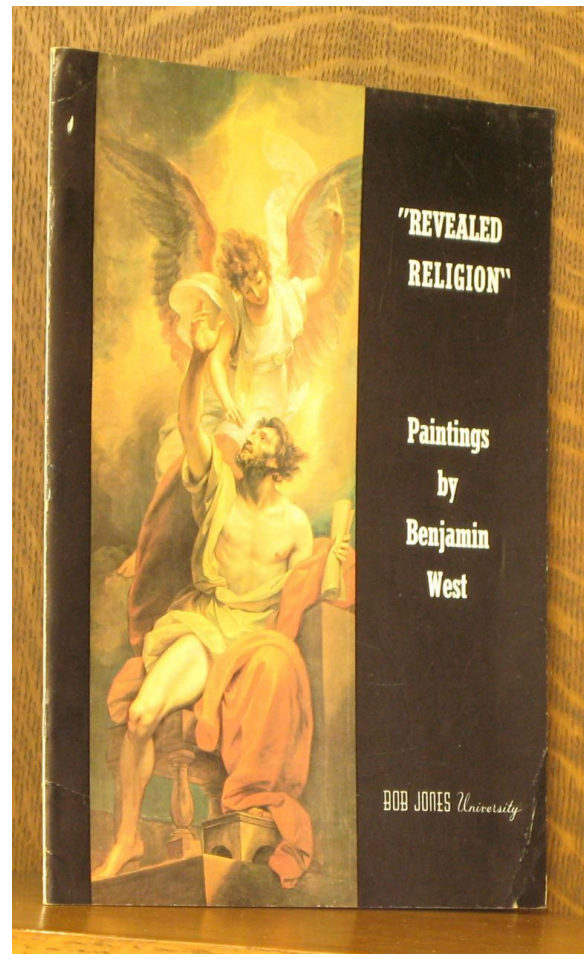
Madonna of the Lake, c. 1520
North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, N.C.
Thru August 1, 2024



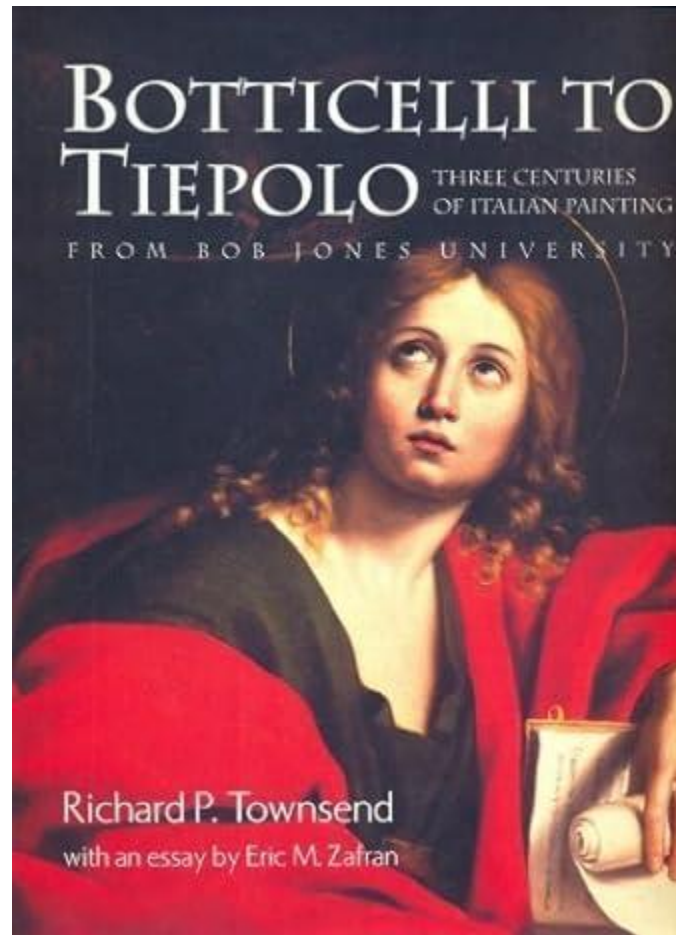
Catalogues

- Revealed Religion by Benjamin West 1963
- Baroque Paintings from the Bob Jones University Collection 1984
- Botticelli to Tiepolo: Three Centuries of Italian Painting from Bob Jones University 1994
- Drama and Beauty: Great European Paintings from the Bob Jones Collection 2022

Progress of Revealed Religion

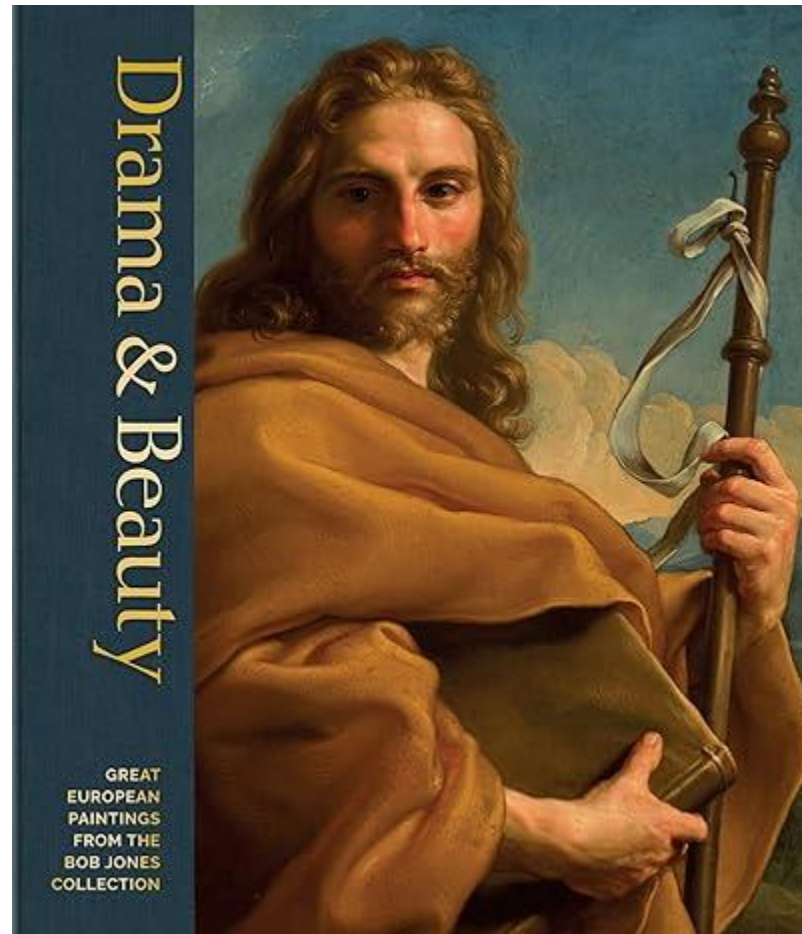


Botticelli to Tiepolo



Drama and Beauty

70th Anniversary of the Collection



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Conclusion and Questions