

Press Release

## Louvre Abu Dhabi Reveals Loans From France For Opening Year

*300 loans from French museums to complement the museum's permanent collection*

**Abu Dhabi, UAE 12 October 2014:** Louvre Abu Dhabi has announced approximately 300 loans to come from major French institutions for its opening year, which will complement the museum's growing collection and universal narrative.

The loans include Leonardo da Vinci's *Portrait of an Unknown Woman* (circa 1495), also known as *La Belle Ferronnière*, which is being loaned by the Musée du Louvre, Edouard Manet's *The Fife Player* (1866), Claude Monet's *The Saint-Lazare Station* (1877) to be loaned by Musée d'Orsay et de l'Orangerie, a rare salt cellar in ivory from the Benin Kingdom, from Musée du quai Branly and Henri Matisse's *Still Life with Magnolia* (1941) from Centre Pompidou.

HE Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA Abu Dhabi), the organisation with the mandate for Louvre Abu Dhabi said: "These outstanding loans from our French partners represent the collaboration and exchange, symbolic of Louvre Abu Dhabi and its progress to date. This will be the first time many of these works will travel to Abu Dhabi or even the Middle East, and are a rare opportunity to see important art from French museums in dialogue with the Louvre Abu Dhabi's collection. Ultimately, we hope to offer visitors a unique experience from a new perspective that underlines the universal spirit of the entire project."

Ms. Fleur Pellerin, French Minister of Culture and Communication, declared that "the announcement of the loans from French museums foreseen in the framework of the intergovernmental agreement signed between the United Arab Emirates and France in 2007 for the opening of the Louvre Abu Dhabi represents a major step in this great project. It is an acknowledgement of both the extraordinary richness of our national collections and the expertise of our museums. These masterpieces loaned by the 13 partner French museums and public institutions, will implement a new dialogue between different world cultures and civilisations, in a spirit of universalism that France is proud to promote throughout the world."

The selection was overseen by TCA Abu Dhabi, Agence France-Muséums (AFM) and the lending museums in line with the museum's scientific and cultural programme. French institutions which will loan works for the opening year include Musée du Louvre; Musée d'Orsay et de l'Orangerie; Centre Pompidou; Musée du quai Branly; Musée national des arts asiatiques Guimet; Château de Versailles; Musée Rodin; Bibliothèque nationale de France; Musée de Cluny - musée national du Moyen Âge; Cité de la Céramique Sèvres; Musée des Arts décoratifs; Musée d'archéologie nationale de St Germain en Laye and Château de Fontainebleau. Most of these are stakeholders of AFM, the organisation established for the realisation of Louvre Abu Dhabi. In addition to the loan of art works, its role includes the definition of the museum's scientific and cultural programme, assistance with project management including visitor policies and most importantly knowledge transfer and the

training of UAE nationals in the field of museums, including internships in the French museums that comprise AFM.

The number of works loaned by French institutions will decrease over a 10-year period as Louvre Abu Dhabi continues to build up its collection. The works will be on show from three months to two years, depending largely on the narrative, the conservation and the preservation requirements of each piece. Louvre Abu Dhabi will follow the highest international standards and requirements for transport, presentation and conservation of artworks.

Born of an intergovernmental agreement between Abu Dhabi and France in 2007, Louvre Abu Dhabi will display artworks and objects of historical, cultural and sociological significance – from prehistory to the contemporary. An innovative vision, the narrative will explore the relations between art traditions from a global perspective, decompartmentilasing collections and offering viewpoints from various cultures.

The announcement of loans from French institutions follows the success of two major exhibitions, *Birth of a Museum* in 2013 in Abu Dhabi and *Naissance d'un musée* in Paris (2 May – 28 July 2014) at Musée du Louvre, showcasing major pieces from Louvre Abu Dhabi's permanent collection. Amongst the works on display were one of the finest examples of a standing Bactrian Princess from the end of the 3rd millennium BCE, a Middle-Eastern gold bracelet with lion heads, a painting by Osman Hamdy Bey from 1878, titled *A Young Emir Studying* and Paul Gauguin's painting *Children Wrestling*, 1888. Alongside these, modern and contemporary artworks on show included *Composition with Blue, Red, Yellow, and Black* by Piet Mondrian that was part of the former Yves Saint-Laurent and Pierre Bergé Collection, an Alexander Calder mobile influenced by Mondrian and *Untitled I-IX*, a series of nine canvases by late American painter Cy Twombly.

Additional [public programmes](#) prior to the museum's opening have included exhibitions, performances and panel discussions, and the fourth edition of the *Louvre Abu Dhabi: Talking Art Series*, will begin in October.

The construction of the museum is progressing rapidly, and the iconic dome is almost complete and placed into position on the site. A one to one mockup of one of the museums' galleries has been completed to illustrate its materials and the possible modes of display. With a built up area of 64,000 square metres, Louvre Abu Dhabi is conceived as a complex of pavilions, plazas, alleyways and canals, evoking the image of a city floating on the sea. Hovering over the complex will be a vast, shallow dome - some 180 metres in diameter - perforated with interlaced patterns so that a magical, diffused light reminiscent of the shadows of palm trees will filter through.

#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

*See attached image sheet for selected list of loans announced and images cleared to print for non-commercial press purposes.*

To download images or for the full list of loans, please go to:

<https://edelmanftp.box.com/s/ka6k8cq84h012vnn5ca0>

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### ABOUT ABU DHABI TOURISM & CULTURE AUTHORITY (TCA Abu Dhabi)

Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA Abu Dhabi) is responsible for safeguarding, protecting and preserving the tangible and intangible heritage of the emirate and translating its history and development to a wide audience. Policies, plans and programs of the Authority are centered on the preservation of heritage and culture including the protection of paleontological, archaeological sites and historical monuments as well as the creation of new museums, including Louvre Abu Dhabi, Zayed National Museum and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. The Authority manages the emirate's tourism sector and markets the destination internationally through a wide range of activities aimed at attracting visitors and investment. TCA Abu Dhabi promotes artistic activities and local events to honor the heritage of the emirate. The Authority is also instrumental in ensuring the importance of artistic creation in the various fields of music, drama and traditional craftsmanship.

### ABOUT LOUVRE ABU DHABI

Born of an intergovernmental agreement between the UAE and France in 2007, Louvre Abu Dhabi has the vocation to be the first Universal museum in the Arab World translating the spirit of openness and dialogue of cultures. Linking Abu Dhabi with the name of the Louvre, Louvre Abu Dhabi designed by Pritzker-prize winning architect [Jean Nouvel](#), will display works of historical, cultural and sociological significance from the most ancient to the most contemporary. Spanning millennia, the artworks on display will originate from civilisations all over the world. The originality of the museum narrative trail resides in presenting these civilisations in the same spaces, galleries, rooms or gallery cabinet. Universal themes and common influences will be highlighted to illustrate similarities and exchanges arising from shared human experience transcending geography, nationality and history. Louvre Abu Dhabi is set to open in 2015.

## ABOUT LOUVRE ABU DHABI TALKING PROGRAMME

The *Talking Art* programme is a series of public discussions to engage the local audience with each of the forthcoming museums in the Saadiyat Cultural District, where representatives from the curatorial departments of each of the partner institutions join other expert panellists to deeply explore topics pertaining to the growing collections and museum developments.

The *Louvre Abu Dhabi Talking Art Series* was launched as a platform for the *Talking Art* programme, to discuss the collection through its cultural programme and aims to explore the significance of individual works both in art historical terms and in the context of the museum's growing collection. Organised jointly by Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority, Agence France-Muséums and the École du Louvre, the series engages with the heart of the museum and the concepts of discovery, convergence and education that are deeply rooted in its identity. The first series launched in September 2011 and has taken place every year since. The forthcoming edition is due to commence in October 2014.

## ABOUT SAADIYAT CULTURAL DISTRICT

[Saadiyat Cultural District](#) on Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi, is devoted to culture and the arts. An ambitious cultural undertaking of the 21st century, it will be a nucleus for global culture, attracting local, regional and international visitors with unique exhibitions, permanent collections, productions and performances. Its iconic buildings will form a historical statement on the finest 21st century architecture; [Zayed National Museum](#), [Louvre Abu Dhabi](#) and [Guggenheim Abu Dhabi](#). They will create a new urban landscape made of *archi-sculptures*, characteristic of the dialogue between architecture and sculpture. These museums will complement and collaborate with local and regional arts and cultural institutions including Universities and Research Centres.

## ABOUT AGENCE FRANCE-MUSÉUMS

Agence France-Muséums, chaired since its creation by Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière, is an organisation that was established for the realisation of Louvre Abu Dhabi and in partnership with French institutions. AFM has been entrusted with the task of carrying through the commitments of France to the project of the universal museum of the Louvre Abu Dhabi and structuring the expertise of the French cultural institutions involved. It provides consultancy services to the authorities of the United Arab Emirates in areas of the definition of the scientific and cultural project, assistance with project management, coordinating loans from French collections and the organisation of temporary exhibitions, the creation of a permanent collection, assistance with the museography, the signage and the multimedia projects and support with the museum's policy on visitors.

## ABOUT PARTNER MUSEUMS

Musée du Louvre : [www.louvre.fr/en](http://www.louvre.fr/en)

Musée d'Orsay et de l'Orangerie : [www.musee-orsay.fr/en/](http://www.musee-orsay.fr/en/) <http://www.musee-orangerie.fr/>

Centre Pompidou : [www.centrepompidou.fr/en](http://www.centrepompidou.fr/en)

Musée du quai Branly : [www.quaibrantly.fr/en/](http://www.quaibrantly.fr/en/)

Musée national des arts asiatiques Guimet : [www.guimet.fr/en/](http://www.guimet.fr/en/)

Château de Versailles : [www.chateauversailles.fr/homepage](http://www.chateauversailles.fr/homepage)

Musée Rodin : [www.musee-rodin.fr/en](http://www.musee-rodin.fr/en)

Bibliothèque nationale de France : [www.bnf.fr/en/tools/a.welcome\\_to\\_the\\_bnf.html](http://www.bnf.fr/en/tools/a.welcome_to_the_bnf.html)

Musée de Cluny - musée national du Moyen Âge : [www.musee-moyenage.fr/](http://www.musee-moyenage.fr/)

Cité de la Céramique Sèvres : [www.sevresciteceramique.fr/](http://www.sevresciteceramique.fr/)

Musée des Arts décoratifs : [www.lesartsdecoratifs.fr/english-439/](http://www.lesartsdecoratifs.fr/english-439/)

Musée d'archéologie nationale de St Germain en Laye : [www.musee-archeologienationale.fr/](http://www.musee-archeologienationale.fr/)

Château de Fontainebleau : [www.chateaufontainebleau.fr](http://www.chateaufontainebleau.fr)