

Collective tribune of the Agence France-Muséums and the thirteen French partner museums  
lending works of art to the Louvre Abu Dhabi, 13 October 2014

## **The Louvre Abu Dhabi, an asset for an enlightened globalization**

The Louvre Abu Dhabi project has made significant progress since the signing of the intergovernmental agreement between the United Arab Emirates and France in 2007. The exhibition of the national collection acquired by the UAE — first in Abu Dhabi in 2013, then last spring in Paris at the Louvre — illustrates the global ambitions of the museum. The construction of the building, designed by Jean Nouvel, is progressing and the vast 180-meter dome — a real technical feat — is nearing completion on the site.

The project is currently reaching a key milestone with the publication of a list of 300 masterpieces belonging to the main French national museums and institutions which will lend these works to the Louvre Abu Dhabi for its opening year. These special loans will supplement the permanent collection of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, establishing a unique intercultural and artistic dialogue.

This step is meaningful for us, presidents and directors of the lending national institutions as well as for the French Government, since it highlights not only the exceptional quality of our collections, but also the breadth of our expertise and our openness to the world. Through Agence France-Muséums, and with the continuous support of the most high profile institutions of the French Republic since 2007, national museums have cooperated to implement France's engagements and achieve -alongside our UAE partners- the first universal museum in the Arab world and one of the largest French cultural projects in the world.

The lending of these artworks is fully part of our museums' missions for better circulation of our national collections throughout the world. We are incredibly proud to present the following artworks to the Louvre Abu Dhabi, which are part of the loans: one of the Marmesse breastplates dating back to the Bronze Age, from Musée d'Archéologie nationale - Saint-Germain-en-Laye; *The Blue Lady*, a Chinese Tang Dynasty figurine from Musée national des arts asiatiques Guimet; a medieval reliquary inlaid with gemstones of various origins, from Musée de Cluny – musée national du Moyen Âge; a rare ivory salt cellar from the Kingdom of Benin, lent by Musée du quai Branly; the portrait known as *La Belle Ferronnière* painted by Leonardo da Vinci, from Musée du Louvre; *the Apollo Belvedere* by Primiticcio, lent by Château de Fontainebleau; a 16<sup>th</sup> Century Florentine dish with blue flower patterns, from Cité de la Céramique - Sèvres; a 16<sup>th</sup> Century Chinese Persian shaped ewer, from Musée des Arts décoratifs; a Coronelli Globe, from Bibliothèque nationale de France; *Napoleon Bonaparte Crossing the Alps* by Jacques-Louis David, lent by Château de Versailles; *The Fife player* by Edouard Manet, from Musée d'Orsay; *Pierre de Wissant* by Auguste Rodin, lent by Musée Rodin; and the *Nature morte au Magnolia* by Henri Matisse, from the Centre Pompidou.

This ambitious cultural project gives our institutions and museums an unprecedented opportunity to valorize our national collections abroad. For all our institutions, the financial compensation foreseen in the framework of the intergovernmental agreement will help enrich the national collections that are under the guardianship of our museums, as well as support new investment projects that are essential for the modernization and development of visitor services.

In this respect, the Louvre Abu Dhabi is an opportunity for all audiences, in the Middle East and throughout the world, which are currently coming in huge numbers to discover our collections.

**Signatures:**

**Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière, Chairman of Agence France-Muséums;**

**Catherine Chevillot, Director of Musée Rodin;**

**Guy Cogeval, President of Musée d'Orsay and musée de l'Orangerie;**

**Jean-Francois Hebert, President of Château de Fontainebleau;**

**Sophie Makariou, President of Musée national des arts asiatiques Guimet;**

**Stéphane Martin, President of Musée du quai Branly;**

**Jean-Luc Martinez, President-director of Musée du Louvre;**

**Hilaire Multon, Director of Musée national d'archéologie – Domaine national de Saint-Germain-en-Laye ;**

**Catherine Pégard, President of Château de Versailles;**

**Bruno Racine, President of Bibliothèque nationale de France;**

**Bruno Roger, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Musée des Arts décoratifs, Paris;**

**Romane Sarfati, General Director of Cité de la Céramique – Sèvres & Limoges;**

**Alain Seban, President of Centre Pompidou;**

**Elisabeth Taburet-Delahaye, Director of Musée de Cluny – musée national du Moyen Âge.**