

PRESS RELEASE

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Louvre Abu Dhabi Presents Nicolas Poussin's Two Iconic Masterpieces in a Unique Dialogue



©Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi, UAE – 21 April 2025: Following the launch of the Abu Dhabi Collection and the dossier-exhibition held at Manarat Al Saadiyat in the last quarter of 2024, Louvre Abu Dhabi is now displaying an iconic work from the collection: *Confirmation* (ca. 1637–1640) by Nicolas Poussin. This masterpiece is presented in dialogue with Poussin's renowned *Self-Portrait* (1650) on loan from the Musée du Louvre, underscoring the museum's commitment to fostering cross-cultural connections through art. This unique pairing offers visitors an opportunity to explore Poussin's artistic legacy, which bridges both personal introspection and universal themes.

Confirmation, part of Poussin's celebrated *Seven Sacraments* series and a highlight of the Abu Dhabi Collection, captures a sacred moment in Christian tradition, conveying the grace and faith bestowed during the sacrament of confirmation. In contrast, *Self-Portrait*, on loan from the Musée du Louvre, provides an intimate glimpse into Poussin's identity as both a philosopher and an artist. Together, these works allow visitors to step into the artist's world, where creativity, human expression, and spiritual depth intertwine.

The juxtaposition of these two paintings highlights universal themes that transcend time. In *Self-Portrait*, Poussin depicts himself in his studio, adorned with symbols of constancy and friendship,

reflecting the intellectual and moral depth that defined his art. This deeply personal portrayal finds a natural dialogue with *Confirmation*, where Poussin's classical composition transforms a sacred ritual into a timeless narrative.

H.E. Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of Louvre Abu Dhabi, said: "The Abu Dhabi Collection reflects our ambition to curate and share iconic artworks that preserve art history and inspire meaningful cultural narratives. Presenting Nicolas Poussin's *Confirmation* alongside his *Self-Portrait* from Musée du Louvre is a powerful manifestation of this vision—uniting a defining work from our collection with a timeless piece that offers a personal insight into the artist himself. This pairing ensures that globally significant works are accessible to audiences in Abu Dhabi, fostering appreciation for artistic excellence, and helping to shape a cultural legacy that resonates across generations and borders."

Manuel Rabaté, Director of Louvre Abu Dhabi, said: "This unique presentation of two masterpieces by Nicolas Poussin marks a defining moment for Louvre Abu Dhabi, reaffirming the museum's commitment to fostering cross-cultural dialogue through the transformative power of art. By bringing together *Self-Portrait* from the Musée du Louvre and *Confirmation* from the Abu Dhabi Collection, we offer visitors a rare opportunity to explore the profound interplay between personal introspection and universal spirituality in Poussin's work. This collaboration reflects Abu Dhabi's dynamic cultural vision—one that champions creative exchange and highlights the role of art in shaping understanding across generations. We hope it will inspire audiences to engage with the infinite power of human creativity."

Laurence des Cars, President-Director of Musée du Louvre, said: "The Musée du Louvre holds an exceptional collection of forty paintings by Nicolas Poussin, unmatched anywhere in the world. In this regard, we are delighted that Louvre Abu Dhabi is displaying such an important work as *Confirmation*, on loan from the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi. On this occasion, the Musée du Louvre is pleased to lend one of the masterpieces of its collection, Poussin's *Self-Portrait*, which presents the artist as a painter-philosopher."

Visitors can view *Confirmation* and *Self-Portrait* in Gallery 18, where they are thoughtfully displayed to foster a meaningful dialogue. This presentation highlights the creative journey and lasting legacy of Nicolas Poussin and will be on view until June 2025.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Louvre Abu Dhabi's operating hours

Museum: Open: 10 am – 6.30 pm (Tuesday – Thursday); extended hours: 10 am – 8.30 pm (Friday - Sunday); closed on Monday.

Dome: Open: 10 am – midnight (Tuesday - Sunday) - last entry 11 pm; closed on Monday.

Museum Café: Open: 10 am – 7 pm (Tuesday - Thursday); extended hours: 10 am – 9 pm (Friday – Sunday). Closed on Monday.

Art Lounge: Open: 3 pm – 12 am (last order 11 pm); closed on Monday and during summer.

Fouquet's Abu Dhabi and Marta Bar: Open: 12 pm – 12 am (last orders at 10 pm) (Tuesday – Thursday, Sunday); weekends: 12 pm – 1 am (last order at 10.30 pm) (Friday – Saturday); closed on Monday.

Aptitude Café: Open: 9 am – 10 pm (daily including Monday)

Follow Louvre Abu Dhabi on social media: Facebook ([Louvre Abu Dhabi](#)), Twitter ([@LouvreAbuDhabi](#)) and Instagram ([@LouvreAbuDhabi](#)) #LouvreAbuDhabi.

ABOUT LOUVRE ABU DHABI

Created by an exceptional agreement between the governments of Abu Dhabi and France, Louvre Abu Dhabi was designed by Jean Nouvel and opened on Saadiyat Island in November 2017. The museum is inspired by traditional Islamic architecture and its monumental dome creates a rain of light effect and a unique social space that brings people together.

Louvre Abu Dhabi celebrates the universal creativity of mankind and invites audiences to see humanity in a new light. Through its innovative curatorial approach, the museum focuses on building understanding across cultures: through stories of human creativity that transcend civilisations, geographies, and times.

The museum's growing collection is unparalleled in the region and spans thousands of years of human history, including prehistoric tools, artefacts, religious texts, iconic paintings, and contemporary artworks. The permanent collection is supplemented by rotating loans from 19 French partner institutions, regional and international museums.

Louvre Abu Dhabi is a testing ground for new ideas in a globalised world and champions new generations of cultural leaders. Its international exhibitions, programming and Children's Museum are inclusive platforms that connect communities and offer enjoyment for all.

ABOUT MUSÉE DU LOUVRE

The Louvre in Paris opened in 1793, during the French Revolution, and from the very beginning was intended to provide inspiration for contemporary art. Courbet, Picasso, Dalí and so many others came to its hallowed halls to admire the old masters, copy them, immerse themselves in masterpieces and improve and fuel their own art. As an ancient royal residence, the Louvre is inextricably linked to eight centuries of French history. As a universal museum, its collections, among the best in the world, span many millennia and miles, from the Americas to Asia. Over 38,000 artworks are grouped into eight curatorial departments, including universally admired works such as the *Mona Lisa*, the *Winged Victory of Samothrace*, and the *Venus de Milo*. With 9.6 million guests in 2019, the Louvre is the most visited museum in the world.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND TOURISM – ABU DHABI

The Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) drives the sustainable growth of Abu Dhabi's culture and tourism sectors and its creative industries, fuels economic progress and helps achieve Abu Dhabi's wider global ambitions. By working in partnership with the organisations that define the emirate's position as a leading international destination, DCT Abu Dhabi strives to unite the ecosystem around a shared vision of the emirate's potential, coordinate effort and investment, deliver innovative solutions, and use the best tools, policies, and systems to support the culture and tourism industries.

DCT Abu Dhabi's vision is defined by the emirate's people, heritage, and landscape. We work to enhance Abu Dhabi's status as a place of authenticity, innovation, and unparalleled experiences, represented by its living traditions of hospitality, pioneering initiatives, and creative thought.

ABOUT SAADIYAT CULTURAL DISTRICT

Home to Louvre Abu Dhabi, Berklee Abu Dhabi, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abrahamic Family House and the soon-to-open Zayed National Museum, teamLab Phenomena Abu Dhabi, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi, Saadiyat Cultural District is one of the greatest concentrations of cultural institutions.

Saadiyat Cultural District is a global platform, emanating from a rich cultural heritage, celebrating traditions, and advancing equitable culture. It is an embodiment of empowerment, showcasing museums, collections, and narratives that supports the region's heritage while promoting a diverse global cultural landscape.

Saadiyat Cultural District is a testament to Abu Dhabi's commitment to preserving heritage while embracing a forward-looking vision. The District invites the world to engage with diverse cultures, fostering dialogue exchange, and offers a global cultural space that supports the region and the global South.