**Press Release**

**Must-See Masterpieces this Winter:**

**Van Gogh, Monet, Degas, Renoir and Bonnard**

**Now on View at Louvre Abu Dhabi**

*Claude Monet’s masterpiece “Charing Cross Bridge”, on loan from a UAE private collection, and a number of significant international loans are now on display alongside new Louvre Abu Dhabi acquisitions*

**Abu Dhabi, 19 January 2020:** While travel to Paris may be difficult this winter, masterpieces of the **Musée d’Orsay** and the **Bibliothèque nationale de France** – both lending museums from the **France Muséums** network – have arrived at Louvre Abu Dhabi. Joining these loans will be *Charing Cross Bridge* by Claude Monet, on loan from a UAE private collection. Newly unveiled acquisitions and loans, many on view for the first time in the region, offer new experiences to attract both first-time and returning visitors to the museum. From 28th century BCE Mesopotamia to the height of Impressionism, new stories of cultural connections can be found at every turn throughout Louvre Abu Dhabi’s ‘museum city’, a modern marvel designed like an Arabian Medina by globally renowned architect Jean Nouvel.

**HE Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi,** said: “Abu Dhabi is a crossroads, a place in which to experience art and culture from all over the world. The artworks, the stories of the artists, and the journey that each loan and acquisition has taken represent the rich diversity of geographies, cultures and histories that ultimately brought each to Louvre Abu Dhabi. Fostering opportunities for cross-cultural understanding is more important than ever. We are proud to have this significant loan from a private collection on view alongside works from museum collections of renown. We look forward to safely and open-heartedly welcoming visitors once again to experience the emirate’s cultural sites and treasures, including these masterpieces now on view at Louvre Abu Dhabi.”

**Louvre Abu Dhabi’s Director**, **Manuel Rabaté**,commented: “The generosity of our lending partners, through the France Muséums network of museums and from the UAE, will allow visitors to experience masterpieces rarely seen in this region, on view side-by-side. Likewise, the acquisitions the museum has made to its permanent collection enrich the stories of cultural connections we bring to life. The four significant works included here reveal, together, new insights into ritual, representation and symbols from Central Asia to India and the Arab World.”

“A museum should always first be for its neighbourhood, aspiring to be a critical part of the cultural life of its community,” said **Dr. Souraya Noujaim, Scientific, Curatorial and Collections Management Director** at Louvre Abu Dhabi. “Through the new works on display, we give returning visitors to Louvre Abu Dhabi an opportunity to re-engage with pieces in our permanent collection, to see them anew through stories of cultural connections. We are thrilled to have been able to carry out this season’s new rotation of loaned masterworks, bringing here for the first time pieces that are considered priceless treasures by their respective museums. The success of these new loans speaks to the strength, solidarity, and cooperation of our partners – the lenders in our network, for whom we are grateful.”

**NEW ACQUISITIONS**

Louvre Abu Dhabi’s new acquisitions include:

* ***Female figure praying*** (Iraq, 2800- 2550 BCE)
* ***Kneeling figure*** (Ancient Egypt, 400 – 300 BCE)
* ***Standing Jina*** figure (Tamil Nadu, India, 1000 – 1100)
* ***Feline-shaped Incense Burner*** (Eastern Iran or Central Asia, 1000 – 1100)

Each of these objects adds to the theme of varied religious beliefs, practices, and rituals across time and geography, and their similarities and differences. ***Female figure praying*** is particularly rare, as statues of worshippers from this time were nearly always male. Likewise, ***Feline-shaped Incense Burner*** tells us that the feline form had many meanings across cultures that we are only now beginning to interpret. This work is presented next to Louvre Abu Dhabi’s ***Aquamanile in the form of a lion*** from early 13th century Germany. Bestiary (the depiction of animals) was a common language, with the feline form generally associated with power.

**NEW WORKS ON LOAN**

The loans from the Musée d’Orsay include some of the most iconic paintings from the Modern-Impressionist period, as well as photographs from the 19th century.

* Edgar Degas, ***The Bellelli family***, France, 1858 – 1869
* Pierre-Auguste Renoir, ***Railway Bridge in Chatou***, France, 1881
* Claude Monet, ***In the Norwegian***, France, circa 1887
* Vincent Van Gogh, ***Caravans, Gypsy Camp near Arles***, France, 1888
* Claude Monet, ***Haystacks, End of Summer***, France, 1891
* Osman Hamdi Bey, ***Old Man in front of Children's Tombs***, Turkey, 1903
* Eugène Louis Gillot, ***The Arrival of the "La Fayette" in New York***, France, 1921
* Pierre Bonnard, ***Southern Landscape,*** France, 1928
* Félix Nadar, ***Alexandre Dumas father, writer***, France, 1854 – 1860
* Eadweard Muybridge, ***Deer, running and jumping***, United States, 1887
* G. N. Barnard, ***Rebel Works in front of Atlanta, Georgia, no. 1***, United States, 1864

The 19th century was marked by societal changes as well as technical advancements. Through these new loans by the Musée d’Orsay, viewers will be able to follow the many ways in which the Industrial Revolution transformed the world forever, as captured in the paintings by Monet, Van Gogh, and their contemporaries. Claude Monet’s ***In the Norwegian*** and ***Haystacks, End of Summer*** highlight not just his ability to capture the light and atmosphere of a moment (mirroring our own current social media habits), but also show subtle changes in his brushstroke. Between 1890 and 1891, the artist embarked on a series of approximately 25 paintings with the haystacks as his sole subject. With these plus the loan from a UAE private collection, ***Charing Cross******Bridge***, Louvre Abu Dhabi now offers visitors three magnificent artworks by Claude Monet. All portray Monet’s scientific precision in capturing the effects of light on colour and visibility. In ***Charing Cross Bridge***, Monet explores the atmospheric conditions created by the movement of light though the density of fog.

Osman Hamdi Bey’s ***Old Man in front of Children's Tombs***is displayed next to Louvre Abu Dhabi’s renowned ***Young Emir Studying*** by the same artist. Though the subjects could not be more different (one passive and languorous, the other full of emotion), both works have a common point— created by a Turkish artist trained in France, who endeavoured to portray truth and precision through delicate details.

Vincent Van Gogh’s ***Caravans, Gypsy Camp near Arles*** is now hanging next to Louvre Abu Dhabi’s own ***The******Bohemian*** by Édouard Manet. Van Gogh was struck by the light and the harsh landscape during his travels through the Camargue in the south of France, where many Romani pilgrims also passed through at that time. The adventure and excitement of leaving the studio, painting in nature, expressing emotions through colour, and the encounters that resulted are felt in both works.

In parallel, this year’s selection of works on loan also includes a number of maps along with sacred and scientific texts from the **Bibliothèque Nationale de France**. Displayed in Louvre Abu Dhabi’s Universal Religions gallery, the sacred texts are foundational to the three Abrahamic religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam. In this rotation, they are displayed alongside a Hindu horoscope. The sacred texts are:

* ***Quran*** (Egypt, 800-1400)
* ***Pentateuch in Hebrew*** copied by Abraham ben Jacob (France, dated 1303)
* ***Collection of texts in Syriac: acts of the Apostles, general epistles and Epistles of Paul*** (Syria, 1398)
* ***Janmapatra, horoscope with personification of the planets*** (Gujarat, North India, 1700-1800)

Other artworks on loan, displayed in the museum’s earlier gallery chapters, include:

* ***Jeong-ri-ui-gwe, construction and inauguration of Suwon Fortress*** (Korea, 1796)
* ***Rawzat al-safa, Timur and his companions determine the fate of Amir Husayn*** by Mir Khwand (Iran, 1601 – 1604)
* ***Map of the different lands and states of America*** by Denis Gobert Chambon (France, 1754)
* ***Navigation Chart (portolan) of the Indian Ocean*** by Johannes Blaeu (Netherlands, 1665)

The new displays in Louvre Abu Dhabi’s permanent galleries coincided with the third anniversary of the museum, which also included the premiere of the museum’s first short film, [*The Pulse of Time*](https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/en/Whats-Online/the-pulse-of-time), and a three-day symposium, [*Reframing Museums*](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUx_x8ALpnlZh7d9w8SZJqg) (16-18 November), which brought industry leaders together to discuss the future of art museums in our current global context.

Louvre Abu Dhabi is open Tuesday – Sunday from 10 am – 6:30 pm and closed on Mondays. Pre-purchased tickets are required to visit the museum. E-tickets can be reserved via the museum’s [website](https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/en/buy-ticket).

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**Notes to editors:**

Follow Louvre Abu Dhabi on social media: Facebook ([Louvre Abu Dhabi](https://www.facebook.com/LouvreAbuDhabi)), Twitter ([@LouvreAbuDhabi](https://twitter.com/LouvreAbuDhabi)) and Instagram ([@LouvreAbuDhabi](http://instagram.com/LouvreAbuDhabi)) #LouvreAbuDhabi.

For more information on Louvre Abu Dhabi’s acquisitions policy, please visit [our website](https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/en/about-us/our-story).

**Ongoing offers and promotions:**

Teachers are eligible for unlimited access to Louvre Abu Dhabi and its programming with the museum’s *Teacher Pass*. The *Teacher Pass* is available at AED 120 for teachers, academics and other educators holding valid accreditation, based in the UAE or abroad.

Louvre Abu Dhabi welcomes all UAE Taxi Drivers to enjoy free entry to the museum along with three complimentary tickets for friends and family. This offer is valid until 31 December 2020.

Further information and terms and conditions on all offers and promotions can be found on the museum’s website: [www.louvreabudhabi.ae](http://www.louvreabudhabi.ae).

**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 13 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 FRANCE MUSÉUMS**

Following the intergovernmental agreement between France and the Emirates of Abu Dhabi signed in 2007, France Muséums, a cultural engineering consultancy, was created to work towards the creation of Louvre Abu Dhabi and support the project in all its dimensions (strategic, scientific, cultural, building, human resources).

Since the opening of the UAE museum in 2017, France Muséums continues to support Louvre Abu Dhabi in four main fields of activity: the management and coordination of loans from French museums for the permanent galleries of the museum, the organisation and production of 4 international exhibitions per year, training of teams and a wide range of consultancy and auditing assignments in all areas of museum management.

France Muséums mobilise its teams based in Paris and Abu Dhabi and a network of 17 major French cultural institutions and museums partners : Louvre Abu Dhabi: Musée du Louvre, Centre Pompidou, Musées d’Orsay et de l’Orangerie, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac, Réunion des Musées Nationaux et du Grand Palais (RMN-GP), Château de Versailles, Musée national des arts asiatiques-Guimet, Musée de Cluny – musée national du Moyen-Âge, École du Louvre, Musée Rodin, Domaine National de Chambord, Musée des Arts Décoratifs (MAD), Cité de la Céramique – Sèvres & Limoges, Musée d’Archéologie nationale – Saint-Germain en Laye, Château de Fontainebleau, and OPPIC (Opérateur du patrimoine et des projets immobiliers de la culture).

**ABOUT SAADIYAT CULTURAL DISTRICT**

Saadiyat Cultural District on Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi, is devoted to culture and the arts. An ambitious cultural undertaking for the 21st century, it will be a nucleus for global culture, attracting local, regional and international guests with unique exhibitions, permanent collections, productions and performances. Its ground-breaking buildings will form a historical statement of the finest 21st century architecture; Zayed National Museum, Louvre Abu Dhabi and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. These museums will complement and collaborate with local and regional arts and cultural institutions including universities and research centres.

**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, 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.