

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver Art Gallery showcases masterpieces by Cézanne, Degas, van Gogh, Gauguin and Modigliani

Exhibition marks the Canadian debut of rarely exhibited
European art from the Pearlman Collection

A media event will take place at the Vancouver Art Gallery at 9:00am, Thursday, February 12, 2015.
Please RSVP to dzhou@vanartgallery.bc.ca



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February 5, 2015, Vancouver, BC – The Vancouver Art Gallery presents ***Cézanne and the Modern: Masterpieces of European Art from the Pearlman Collection***, a major travelling exhibition featuring an exceptional collection of modernist works by European masters. Totalling 50 artworks, this exhibition includes paintings by Paul Cézanne, Edgar Degas, Édouard Manet, Amedeo Modigliani, Camille Pissarro, Chaïm Soutine and Vincent van Gogh, as well as sculpture by Paul Gauguin, Wilhelm Lebrück and Jacques Lipchitz.

The jewel of the exhibition is an astonishing group of 24 works by Paul Cézanne that covers his entire career as an artist, including six oils—such as the major *Mont Sainte-Victoire* (1904–06); two drawings; and sixteen watercolours which constitute one of the finest and best-preserved groups of Cézanne's watercolours in the world. Due to the light sensitivity of the works on paper, half of them will be exhibited during the first portion of the exhibition and the remainder will be on view during the second half.

This exceptional art collection was built by Henry and Rose Pearlman during the 1940s and 1950s. Henry Pearlman (1895 – 1974) was a New York City business man who passionately collected European avant-garde art since 1945 until the end of his life. Central to the Pearlman's collecting interests were two artists, the great expressionist painter Chaim Soutine, of whose work Henry Pearlman was one of the earliest American collectors, and, most importantly, Paul Cézanne (1895–1974).

Organized by the Princeton University Art Museum in cooperation with the Henry and Rose Pearlman Foundation, this exhibition marks the first time in over 50 years that the Pearlman Collection has travelled as a collection, and the Vancouver Art Gallery will be the only venue in Canada.

“We are proud to be the only Canadian institution to present this exceptional collection of artworks,” said Kathleen S. Bartels, Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery. “With their timeless beauty and richness, these treasured artworks are a testament to the extraordinary vision of Henry and Rose Pearlman, and in particular showcase the remarkable breadth of Cézanne's career. The Gallery is thrilled to offer our visitors the opportunity to see these masterpieces by some of the most famous artists of the 19th and 20th century.”

Other key artworks in the exhibition include: Degas' *After the Bath, Woman Drying Herself*, from the 1890s, a magnificent example of how the artist's radical vision transformed the depiction of the female body in the late 19th century; Van Gogh's *La diligence de Tarascon (Tarascon Stagecoach)* (1888), a colourful and unusual composition that reveals the artist's willingness to paint unconventional views and find beauty in the everyday; and Modigliani's monumental portrait *Jean Cocteau* (1916), which is one of the artist's most important paintings.

In addition to the Pearlman collection, eight 19th and 20th century French paintings from the Vancouver Art Gallery's collections will be presented concurrently to further broaden the historical perspectives in *Cézanne and the Modern*.

Cézanne and the Modern's touring information

Cézanne and the Modern: Masterpieces of European Art from the Pearlman Collection is organized by the Princeton University Art Museum in cooperation with the Henry and Rose Pearlman Foundation. The exhibition premiered at the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, University of Oxford, Oxford, England (March 13–June 22, 2014), then travelled to the Musée Granet, Aix-en-Provence, France (July 11–October 5, 2014) and to the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, USA (October 25, 2014–January 11, 2015). Following its presentation at the Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada (February 14–May 18, 2015), the tour will conclude at Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, N.J. (September 12, 2015–January 3, 2016).

About Clair de Lune: Nineteenth and Twentieth Century French Paintings

Concurrently featured at the Vancouver Art Gallery, *Clair de Lune* features eight impressionist paintings from the Gallery's collection, beginning with an early work by Eugène Boudin, one of Claude Monet's teachers. Also included is the work by artist Adolphe Monticelli, whom Vincent van Gogh greatly admired. Although he is little known today, he was both an immensely successful and influential painter in the 19th century. The more powerful influence of the impressionist style is seen in the work of Albert Lebourg and Henri Le Sidaner. Le Sidaner, an important second-generation impressionist artist, is known for images that seem to shimmer and glow with an inner life. This exhibition takes its title from one of his paintings. A superb canvas by Jean-Louis Forain, *Voilà la preuve!* (1922), shows the continued importance of the figurative legacy of the painters Gustave Courbet and Honoré Daumier, both shown in *Cézanne and the Modern*. Finally, the enduring importance of Cézanne himself is demonstrated in the work of Charles Camoin, a French painter associated with the Fauves.

About the Vancouver Art Gallery

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of the most respected and innovative visual arts institutions in Canada and is committed to strengthening ties between artists and diverse communities throughout the city, province and beyond. As the largest public art museum in Western Canada, the Gallery features the work of ground-breaking contemporary artists from around the world and presents historical art of international significance, is committed to exploring the art of Asia, and provides a global platform for British Columbia's dynamic artistic community, including the work of First Nations artists. Its growing collection represents the most comprehensive resource for art in British Columbia and is the principal repository for visual art produced in the region, as well as related works by other notable Canadian and international artists. The Gallery also places an emphasis on advancing scholarship through major publications and presents a multitude of public programs that offer new ways to consider art for visitors who come from throughout the region and internationally.

Following an in-depth master planning process that was in response to the significant growth in collection, exhibitions and attendance, the Gallery announced in 2014 the selection of Herzog & de Meuron for the design of a new and expanded home in downtown Vancouver. Double the Gallery's current size, the future facility will be a vital catalyst in enhancing Vancouver's cultural community, and will serve as a centre for cross-cultural dialogue and exchange in the visual arts.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.

About the Princeton University Art Museum

With a collecting history that extends back to the 1750s, the Princeton University Art Museum is one of the leading university art museums in the country, with collections that have grown to include over 92,000 works of art ranging from ancient to contemporary art and spanning the globe.

Committed to advancing Princeton's teaching and research missions, the Art Museum also serves as a gateway to the University for visitors from around the world. Intimate in scale yet expansive in scope, the Museum offers a respite from the rush of daily life, a revitalizing experience of extraordinary works of art and an opportunity to delve deeply into the study of art and culture.

Exhibition Support

Cézanne and the Modern: Masterpieces of European Art from the Pearlman Collection

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Clair de Lune: Nineteenth and Twentieth Century French Paintings

The Vancouver Art Gallery is grateful for the generous gifts of William Southam, David M. Campbell and an anonymous donor. The exhibition is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Ian Thom, Senior Curator–Historical, and presented with Visionary Partner: Michael O'Brian Family Foundation.

Image credits:

(left) Paul Cézanne, *Mont Sainte-Victoire (La Montagne Sainte-Victoire)*, c. 1904-06, oil on canvas, The Henry and Rose Pearlman Foundation, on long-term loan to the Princeton University Art Museum

(middle) Edgar Degas, *After the Bath, Woman Drying Herself (Après le bain, femme s'essuyant)*, 1890s, oil on canvas, The Henry and Rose Pearlman Foundation, on long-term loan to the Princeton University Art Museum

(right) Vincent van Gogh, *Tarascon Stagecoach (La diligence de Tarascon)*, 1888, oil on canvas, The Henry and Rose Pearlman Foundation, on long-term loan to the Princeton University Art Museum

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Images are available upon request.

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