

***MONET TO CÉZANNE/CASSATT TO SARGENT: THE IMPRESSIONIST
REVOLUTION COMING TO MEMPHIS BROOKS MUSEUM OF ART***

***Exhibition organized by the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, and the
Memphis Brooks Museum of Art on view from July 16 to October 9, 2011***

Memphis, TN (June 1, 2011) – On Saturday, July 16, *Monet to Cézanne/Cassatt to Sargent: The Impressionist Revolution* opens at the Brooks. The exhibition of over 95 paintings and works on paper features masterpieces never before seen together by leading Impressionists such as Monet, Degas, Renoir, Pissarro, Sisley, Forain, Cézanne, Cassatt, Sargent, Hassam, Beaux, and others that capture the rise of Impressionism in Paris, its revolutionary underpinnings, and its arrival and influence in America. This exhibition also illuminates the strength of Impressionist holdings in the American South, drawing on the Brooks' highly regarded permanent holdings as well as those of the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, and important private collections.

Press images and credit lines for the exhibition are available here:
<http://www.brooksmuseum.org/impressionistrevolutionpressimages>.

Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works—whether landscapes, genre paintings, portraits, still lifes, or city scenes—are arguably the most recognizable and popular visual art in the world. However, because of their familiarity and immediate appeal, it is easy to forget how these loosely painted, light-filled canvases first shocked and then eventually transformed the art world. *Monet to Cézanne/Cassatt to Sargent: The Impressionist Revolution* will consider the emergence of the movement, and trace its avant-garde—and widely varying—development through the nineteenth century and into the modern era, both in France and the United States.

“One of the things about Impressionist pictures that always beguiles us is their seemingly eternal freshness and spontaneity,” says Stanton Thomas, Curator of European and Decorative Art at the Brooks. “After a century and a half, they have lost none of their power to both inspire and intrigue us. Of course, the Impressionist Revolution still continues—it reverberates in contemporary artists’ attempts to break the machine, to use color arbitrarily, or think to outside the conventions of visual tradition—even now, we see ripples of that shock wave.”

The exhibition will open with a July 16 celebration of French independence and culture at the Brooks, with numerous festivities throughout the museum:

In the Rotunda: “The Big Draw,” which will feature local artists demonstrating Impressionist techniques, dancers from New Ballet Ensemble, an Eiffel Tower-inspired wafer sculpture project for children, and a DJ playing French pop and hip-hop music. All “Big Draw” activities are free with museum admission.

In the Brushmark: French wine and cheese, and a special brunch menu (pricing a la carte).

In the Dorothy K. Hohenberg Auditorium: a 10:30 a.m. Hi-Definition screening of the Royal Ballet's performance of *Giselle* (\$12 for Brooks members; \$15 for non-members), followed by a 2 p.m. screening of two Louis Malle documentary films, *Vive le tour* and *Humain, trop humaine* (\$6 Brooks members, \$8 non-members).

Beginning on opening weekend and throughout the run of the exhibition, audio tours of *Monet to Cézanne/Cassatt to Sargent: The Impressionist Revolution* will be accessible via iPod Touch, available to museum visitors at no additional cost. Audio tours will also be accessible via the Brooks' smart phone app, which will debut just before the exhibition opening, along with a relaunch of the Brooks' newly designed website and an ancillary mobile site for iPhone and Android users.

Other programs and events presented at the Brooks in conjunction with *Monet to Cézanne/Cassatt to Sargent: The Impressionist Revolution* include an eight-part film series entitled "The New Wave Revolution," which is co-presented by Indie Memphis and sponsored by Rhodes College; myriad family programs, including *A Very Impressionistic Family Day* on Saturday, July 23; lectures by David Brenneman and William McKeowan; the Live in the Galleries concert series; and world class cultural programming that includes Hi-Definition screenings of operas *Manon*, *Roméo et Juliette*, and *La Bohème: The Movie*, as well as ballets *Children of Paradise* and *Les Flammes de Paris*.

On Saturday, September 24, the Brooks will celebrate its 95th year with the Sidewalk Impressionists Chalk Art Festival. Memphians will be encouraged to make chalk creations all over town and submit images to the Brooks' Facebook page, while museum visitors can tour the exhibition, watch artists create Impressionist-themed chalk artworks on the Brooks' outdoor Plaza, and enjoy cake and live music.

Monet to Cézanne/Cassatt to Sargent: The Impressionist Revolution is presented as part of "A Very Impressionistic Summer," a partnership between the Brooks and the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, where *Jean-Louis Forain (1852-1931): La Comédie Parisienne* will be on exhibition from June 26 through October 9.

While the Brooks and the Dixon have over 130 years of combined history in the cultural and economic center of a three-state area of the American South, this new partnership between two fiercely idiosyncratic institutions heralds a unifying visual arts front seldom seen in U.S. cities. Directors of both museums see this joint effort as a necessary model for the 21st century, in which institutions of public value consolidate resources to have a larger impact on the community in which they're based. "A Very Impressionistic Summer" offers audiences an opportunity to immerse themselves in the artistic world of Claude Monet, Paul Cézanne, John Singer Sargent, and Jean-Louis Forain, among many others.

About the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art:

The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, located at 1934 Poplar Avenue in historic Overton Park, is the largest art museum in a three-state region of the American South. Over 9,000 works make up the Brooks' permanent collection including ancient works from

Greece, Rome, and the Ancient Americas; Renaissance masterpieces from Italy; English portraiture; American painting and decorative arts; contemporary art; and a survey of African art. For more information on the Brooks, and all other exhibitions and programs, call (901) 544-6200 or visit www.brooksmuseum.org.

About the High Museum of Art:

The High Museum of Art, founded in 1905 as the Atlanta Art Association, is the leading art museum in the southeastern United States. With more than 12,000 works of art in its permanent collection, the High Museum of Art has an extensive anthology of 19th- and 20th-century American and decorative art; significant holdings of European paintings; a growing collection of African American art; and burgeoning collections of modern and contemporary art, photography and African art. The High is also dedicated to supporting and collecting works by Southern artists and is distinguished as the only major museum in North America to have a curatorial department specifically devoted to the field of folk and self-taught art. The High's media arts department produces acclaimed annual film series and festivals of foreign, independent and classic cinema. In November 2005, the High opened three new buildings by architect Renzo Piano that more than doubled the Museum's size, creating a vibrant "village for the arts" at the Woodruff Arts Center in midtown Atlanta. For more information about the High, please visit www.High.org.

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