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## Mary Morton named curator of French painting at National Gallery of Art, Washington



Mary Morton, appointed curator of French paintings at the National Gallery of Art, Washington. Photo courtesy National Gallery of Art. Photograph by Jessica Robinson, 2009.

Washington, DC – Mary Morton has been named curator and head of the department of French paintings at the National Gallery of Art by Director Earl A. Powell III. Morton's appointment becomes effective in early January 2010, when she will oversee one of the world's outstanding public collections of approximately 575 French paintings dating from the 17th to the early 20th century, as well as an active program of related exhibitions and acquisitions.

"Mary Morton brings to the National Gallery of Art a rich background steeped in academia and distinguished by curatorial positions at top museums, where she has been deeply involved in scholarly exhibitions and catalogues," said Powell.

Widely published, Morton has been associate curator of paintings at the J. Paul Getty

Museum since 2004 and was associate curator of European art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, from 1998 to 2004. She is currently developing an online catalogue of the Getty's paintings collection. Among the recent exhibitions she has organized at the Getty are *Sur le Motif: Painting in Nature around 1800* (2008), *Oudry's Painted Menagerie* (2007), and *Courbet and the Modern Landscape* (2006). While in Houston, she organized *Focus on the Beck Collection: André Derain's "The Turning Road, L'Estaque"* in 2002 and during the same period collaborated on such shows as *Paris in the Age of Impressionism: Masterworks from the Musée d'Orsay* and *Old Masters, Impressionists and Moderns: French Masterworks from the State Pushkin Museum, Moscow*.

Morton received her M.A. in 1992 and her Ph.D. in the history of art and architecture in 1998 from Brown University, Providence; her dissertation was entitled "Naturalism and Nostalgia: Hippolyte Taine's Lectures on Art History at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, 1865–1869." Her area of specialization was 19th- and early 20th-century European art. In 1987 she earned her B.A. in history with departmental honors from Stanford University, CA, where she focused on European intellectual history.

Morton has held teaching positions in art history at the Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA; Woodbury University, Burbank, CA; Chapman University, Orange, CA; and Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI.

Morton will arrive at the National Gallery of Art some two years after the death of Philip Conisbee, senior curator of European paintings. In the intervening period, Kimberly Jones, associate curator, has been acting head of the department of French paintings.

Beginning in late fall 2009, most of the Gallery's West Building main floor galleries dedicated to French paintings of the 19th century will be closed for approximately 18 months during the Gallery's continuing program of repair, renovation, and restoration. However, major works from the collection will be on view from January 31, 2010 through July 31, 2011 in the central galleries of the West Building as part of the exhibition *From Impressionism to Modernism: The Chester Dale Collection*. In other relocations, French paintings from the 18th century will return to their original galleries next to the American collection, some works will be integrated into the Small French Paintings

galleries in the East Building, and other select 19th-century works will be hung near modern paintings in the upper level galleries of the East Building.

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## General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. With the exception of the atrium and library, the galleries in the East Building will be closing gradually beginning in July 2013 and will remain closed for approximately three years for Master Facilities Plan and renovations. For specific updates on gallery closings, visit [www.nga.gov/renovation](http://www.nga.gov/renovation) (<http://www.nga.gov/renovation>) .

For information call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's website at [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov). Follow the Gallery on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt](http://www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt) and on Twitter at [twitter.com/ngadc](http://twitter.com/ngadc).

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

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