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Opening Weekend of Newly Renovated French Galleries is Celebrated with Array of Free Programs Highlighting 19th-Century French Art and Culture at the National Gallery of Art, January 28 and 29, 2012



Film still from *French CanCan* (Jean Renoir, 1954, DCP from 35 mm, 102 minutes) to be shown on Sunday, January 29, at 5:00 p.m., at the National Gallery of Art in honor of the reopening of the 19th-century French galleries. Image courtesy of Photofest

Washington, DC—The National Gallery of Art will celebrate the reopening of its galleries devoted to 19th-century French impressionist and post-impressionist painting with an array of public programs throughout the opening weekend of January 28–29, 2012, and later. Located on the Main Floor of the West Building, the galleries will reopen to the public on January 28, following a two-year renovation.

All programs are free of charge in the East Building Auditorium unless otherwise noted. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Public Symposium

Celebrating the Reopening of the 19th-Century French Galleries

Friday, April 27, 12:00–5:00 p.m., East Building Large Auditorium

Saturday, April 28, 12:00–5:00 p.m., West Building Lecture Hall

Lecture Program

Nineteenth-Century Redux: A New Look at a Great Collection of French Paintings

Sunday, January 29, 2:00 p.m.

Mary Morton, curator and head, department of French paintings, National Gallery of Art
East Building Auditorium

Meet the Curators

Meet the Curators!

Sunday, January 29, 3:00 p.m.

Following the opening day lecture, the French paintings department curators will be in the galleries for a question-and-answer session.

Film Program

New Restoration: French CanCan

Sunday, January 29, 5:00 p.m.

Gaumont's luminous restoration of Jean Renoir's classic tale of the origins of the Moulin Rouge is presented on the occasion of the reopening of the National Gallery's nineteenth-century French painting galleries. With its sensuous color and soft lighting, the Technicolor extravaganza remains an enduring homage to Renoir's father, Auguste, and other artists of the era, especially Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and Edgar Degas.
(Jean Renoir, 1954, DCP from 35 mm, 102 minutes)

Concerts

The Singers Companye, Men in Blaque, and Organist Alexander Frey

West Building, East Garden Court

Saturday, January 28 and Sunday, January 29, 1:00–4:00 p.m.

A festival of French music from the 1870s to the 1910s

National Gallery of Art Vocal Ensemble

West Building, West Garden Court

Sunday, January 29, 6:30 p.m.

Music by Fauré and other French composers

Pascal and Ami Rogé, duo-pianists

West Building, West Garden Court

Sunday, March 4, 6:30 pm

Music by Debussy

Gallery Talks

Reimagining Courbet in the Reopened French Galleries

Adam Davies

February 2 and 3, 12:00 p.m.

February 10–12, 1:00 p.m.

West Building Rotunda

50 minutes

Nineteenth-Century French Painting

Elizabeth Tunick

February 6, 7, 9, and 10, 11:00 a.m.

West Building Rotunda

40 minutes

"New" French Galleries

Sally Shelburne

March 15 and 22, 1:00 p.m.

April 24 and 28 at 1:00 p.m.

West Building Rotunda

60 minutes

Renoir in Paris

Eric Denker

May 1, 2, 3, 9, 22, 11:00 a.m.

West Building Rotunda

30 minutes

Gallery Shops

A variety of offerings inspired by the Gallery's great works of French art will be available in the shops, including three newly designed mugs printed with works from the permanent collection, as well as posters, bookmarks, note cards and puzzles. A 2013 impressionism wall calendar will be available in May, featuring works from the Gallery's collection. One of Claude Monet's masterpieces, *The Artist's Garden at Vétheuil* (1880), will be reproduced on canvas using high-density, pigmented inks.

About the Installation

The Gallery's collection of later 19th-century French paintings—among the greatest in the world of works by Manet, Monet, Renoir, Cézanne, Van Gogh, and Gauguin—will return to public view in a freshly conceived installation design. While the appearance of these revered rooms on the Main Floor of the West Building will have changed very little—preserving the conditions of light, the room proportions, and wall colors that make the Gallery one of the great places to view art in the world—the paintings themselves will be shown in dynamic new arrangements organized into thematic, monographic, and art historical groupings.

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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>) .

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. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt and on Twitter at 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.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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