

1280 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E. • ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30309

Press Office

TEL 404-733-4437

FAX 404-733-4529

prinfo@woodruffcenter.org

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MONET'S ICONIC WATER LILIES FROM THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART COMING TO ATLANTA THIS SUMMER

***First Time MoMA's Water Lilies Will Travel to the Southeast;
Including 42-foot-wide Monumental Triptych that is Largest in the U.S.
Exhibition Marks Beginning of a Multi-Year, Multi-Exhibition MoMA Collaboration***

ATLANTA, April 29, 2009 – The High Museum of Art will present an exhibition of four masterpieces by Claude Monet from the collection of The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, beginning June 6. The installation will feature MoMA's renowned 42-foot-wide triptych, "Reflections of Clouds on the Water-Lily Pond," which is the largest "Water Lilies" painting in the U.S. The High's presentation of "Monet Water Lilies" launches a multi-year, multi-exhibition collaboration between the High and MoMA, with additional exhibitions currently under development for 2011 through 2013.



Monet, "Reflections of Clouds on the Water-Lily Pond" (left panel), ca. 1920. Oil on canvas, three panels, each 6' 6 3/4" x 13' 11 1/4", overall 6' 6 3/4" x 41' 10 3/8." The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Mrs. Simon Guggenheim Fund. Digital image © The Museum of Modern Art/Licensed by SCALA/Art Resource, NY.

The initiative builds on successful past collaborations between the High and MoMA that resulted in four exhibitions presented in Atlanta between 1997 and 2000. This project will extend ties between the institutions through professional exchanges, development of educational programs and publications, and reciprocal admission benefits. "Monet Water Lilies" is a collaboration between The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the High Museum of Art, Atlanta. The exhibitions and programs of the MoMA Series are made possible by Bank of America, The Modern Masters Circle of the High Museum of Art, and Planning Partner: The Rich Foundation. Insurance support is provided by AXA Art.

"Monet Water Lilies" will also include another monumental painting of the water lilies in the Japanese-style pond that Monet cultivated on his property in Giverny, France ("Water Lilies," c. 1920, 6' 6 1/2" x 19' 7 1/2"), as well as "The Japanese Footbridge" (c. 1920-22) and "Agapanthus" (1918-19), depicting the majestic plants bordering the pond. The paintings portray Monet's flower garden and water lily ponds at his home in Giverny, France. The exhibition will be on view through August 23, 2009, and will subsequently go on view at MoMA from September 13, 2009, through March 29, 2010.

"Monet's iconic 'Water Lilies' at the High Museum will be an unforgettable experience for the people of Atlanta and the region. These paintings are jewels in MoMA's collection that visitors from around the world make pilgrimages to see, so we're especially pleased to bring these works directly to residents of the Southeast," said Michael E. Shapiro, the High's Nancy and Holcombe T. Green, Jr. Director. "This exhibition kicks off a multi-year partnership that will bring exciting works of art to Atlanta, drawn from

the greatest collection of Modern Art in the world, including masterpieces by Picasso, Matisse, Miró, Pollock and Warhol.”

As part of this multi-year, multi-exhibition collaboration with MoMA, in fall 2011, the High will present a major exhibition from MoMA's collections, exploring the work of twelve of the most important artists of the twentieth century—Brancusi, Calder, de Chirico, Duchamp, Johns, Léger, Matisse, Miró, Mondrian, Picasso, Pollock, and Warhol. The achievements of these pioneers of modern art will be presented in-depth to explore each artist's stylistic development as well as to highlight their roles in the most important artistic developments of the twentieth century, including the invention of cubism, the emergence of abstraction, and the development of surrealism. A second primary exhibition and additional focus shows are being developed for 2012 and 2013. This initiative builds upon successful past partnerships between the two institutions that brought four previous exhibitions to Atlanta: “Matisse: Masterworks from The Museum of Modern Art,” 1997; “Picasso: Masterpieces from The Museum of Modern Art,” 1998; “Pop Art,” 1999; and “Van Gogh's Starry Night: Three Masterpieces from The Museum of Modern Art,” 2000.

Claude Monet

Claude Monet (French, 1840 - 1926) painted around 3,000 works during his lifetime; over two hundred and fifty were water lilies. Monet's later years were spent at Giverny, approximately 40 miles from Paris, where he explored his passion for gardening. For ten years, he constructed and expanded his gardens. The project required six full-time gardeners, one of whom focused exclusively on the water lilies. When Monet decided to paint the ‘Water Lilies’ series, he built a new studio to house the large panels. On November 12, 1918, the day after the Armistice, Monet offered to donate two ‘Water Lilies’ paintings to France in honor of the victory; this promise led to his eventual gift of twenty-two panels, which were installed at the Musée de l'Orangerie in Paris in 1927, shortly after the artist's death. When Monet died, many of these last works remained in his studio, left under the care of his son. They were ignored by critics until interest in the ‘Water Lilies’ was revived in the 1950s. As the first public collection in the United States to acquire one of Monet's large-scale water lilies compositions, MoMA and its founding director Alfred Barr, Jr. are credited with introducing the American public to these important and spectacular works.

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 11,000 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.*

The Woodruff Arts Center

The Woodruff Arts Center is ranked among the top four arts centers in the nation. The Woodruff is unique in that it combines four visual and performing arts divisions on one campus as one not-for-profit organization. Opening in 1968, the Woodruff Arts Center is home to the Alliance Theatre, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the High Museum of Art and Young Audiences. To learn more about the Woodruff Arts Center, please visit www.woodruffcenter.org.

The Museum of Modern Art

Founded in 1929 as an educational institution, The Museum of Modern Art is dedicated to being the foremost museum of modern and contemporary art in the world. MoMA's collection includes over 150,000 paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, photographs, architectural models and drawings, and design objects; 22,000 films, videos, media works, film stills, scripts, posters and historical documents; and significant holdings in its Library and Archives. MoMA maintains an active schedule of exhibitions addressing a wide range of subject matter, mediums, and time periods, highlighting recent developments in the visual arts and new interpretations of major artists and art historical movements. In addition, the Museum is dedicated to its role as an educational institution and provides a complete program of activities intended to assist both the general public and special segments of the community in approaching and understanding the world of modern and contemporary art. For more information, please visit www.moma.org <<http://www.moma.org>>.

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Media contacts:

Cassandra Champion Streich

Senior Manager of Public Relations

Tel: 404-733-4436 | Email: cassandra.streich@woodruffcenter.org**Media outside the Southeastern United States please contact:**

Ilana Simon

Resnicow Schroeder Associates

Tel: 212-671-5176 | Email: isimon@resnicowschroeder.com

The Museum of Modern Art

Kim Mitchell: 212/333-6594; kim_mitchell@moma.orgMargaret Doyle Tel. 212-408-6400, Margaret_doyle@moma.org