



NEWS RELEASE

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Renoir to Chagall Paris and the Allure of Color

Opens June 8 at Joslyn Art Museum

(Omaha, NE) – *Renoir to Chagall: Paris and the Allure of Color* showcases 49 masterpieces from the renowned collection of the Dixon Gallery and Gardens in Memphis, Tennessee. The exhibition explores how Paris emerged as the center of the art world in the nineteenth century, attracting and inspiring the greatest



painters of the era, including the well-known leaders of French Impressionism. Opening June 8 at Joslyn Art Museum, the exhibition continues through September 1. Admission to Joslyn Art Museum, and the *Renoir to Chagall* exhibition, is free.

Under Emperor Napoleon III, Paris was transformed between 1853 and 1870, as crowded neighborhoods and narrow streets were demolished to make way for grand boulevards, public

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gardens, and striking new buildings. Energized by a growing population and rising prosperity, the renewed city also attracted the most important artists of the time, who came to define the modern era. In 1874, a group of young painters, including Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Alfred Sisley, Pierre Auguste Renoir, Edgar Degas, and Berthe Morisot, organized an exhibition independent of the official salon. Together, they became known by the critics as "Impressionists," so named for work that appeared to capture not only its subject, but the artist's sensation of it as well. Often painting *en plein air*, or out of doors, their style is characterized by quick, staccato brushwork and unblended paint mixed directly on the canvas itself, creating shape and volume through the contrast of colors. Their subjects ranged widely, from the seacoast and rural landscapes to grand vistas of the city to people engaged in contemporary pursuits, whether socializing in a café, attending the ballet, or leisurely strolling the Parisian streets.

The Impressionists, in turn, inspired further generations of avant-garde artists, including Neo-Impressionists like George Seurat; Henri Matisse and the Fauves' bold use of color; George Braque's experiments with Cubist structure; and Marc Chagall's lyrical allegories. Through the eyes of these artists, viewers not only see the enchantment of the "City of Light" and the French countryside, but also the inspiration and foundation of the most important artistic movements of the twentieth century.

A complete list of artists featured in the exhibition:

Pierre Bonnard	Paul Gauguin	Pierre Auguste Renoir
Eugène-Louis Boudin	Paul César Helleu	Henri Stanislas Rouart
Georges Braque	Gaston La Touche	John Singer Sargent
Mary Cassatt	Stanislas-Victor-Édouard Lépine	Georges Seurat
Paul Cézanne	Maximilien Luce	Paul Signac
Marc Chagall	Henri Matisse	Alfred Sisley
Henri-Edmond Cross	Pierre-Albert Marquet	Chaim Soutine
Edgar Degas	Claude Monet	Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec
Raoul Dufy	Berthe Morisot	Maurice Utrillo
Henri Fantin-Latour	Camille Pissarro	
Jean-Louis Forain	Jean-François Raffaëlli	

This exhibition is organized by Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis.

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About the Dixon Gallery and Gardens' French Collection

The remarkable collection of French paintings at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens began as the vision of the museum's founders, Hugo and Margaret Dixon, who were advised by one of the leading scholars of Impressionism, John Rewald. The combination of passionate collectors and a critic's keen eye laid the foundation for a major collection that has only continued to grow since the museum's opening four decades ago. *Renoir to Chagall: Paris and the Allure of Color* shares the finest of the Dixon Gallery's collection.

Mobile *Renoir to Chagall*

Free Wi-Fi is now available in all Joslyn galleries. Guests should bring a mobile device or borrow one of Joslyn's (free of charge, valid driver's license required) to access the following:

- Exhibition mobile tour presented by Joslyn and OnCell. Call (402) 881-3601 (tour presented in English). Tour access information also available at the Museum and, beginning June 8, @ www.joslyn.org/mobiletour
- Edventure: *Renoir to Chagall!* powered by Green Door Labs. An all-ages interactive scavenger hunt in the exhibition. Access begins June 8 @ www.edventurebuilder.com/joslyn

Exhibition Related Events

Joslyn Art Museum Association Annual Gala

The Joslyn Art Museum Association (JAMA) hosts a gala in celebration of *Renoir to Chagall: Paris and the Allure of Color* on Friday, June 7. Honorary chairs are Shirley and Dan Neary. Co-chairmen are JAMA's Susan Cutler and Anne Nelson. JAMA President is Nancy Whitted. Special guest for the evening will be Kevin Sharp, director of the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and gallery viewing begin at 6:30 pm. Dinner will be served at 7:30 pm. Cocktail attire. Valet parking. Individual tickets are \$175 (Patron tickets \$350, Benefactor tickets \$500). For reservations, call (402) 661-3821 by May 29.

Members-only Opening

On Saturday, June 8, Joslyn members will enjoy a private, opening day celebration of the exhibition. At 6 pm, Kevin Sharp, director of the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis, will give an overview of the exhibition. The presentation will be followed by gallery viewing. Complimentary light hors d'oeuvres will be served, and a cash bar will be available. Invitations were mailed to all Joslyn members. Others interested in attending may join Joslyn online at joslyn.org.

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Family Fun Day

A perfectly Parisian afternoon! This family event on Sunday, June 23 (1–4 pm) will include performances by Ballet Nebraska, painting *en plein air* (outdoors), and a special ice cream tasting featuring Impressionism-inspired flavors by eCreamery Ice Cream & Gelato. *Family Fun Day is free and supported in part by Wiesman Development and the Joslyn Art Museum Association.*

Gallery Talks

Jan Schneider Lund, assistant professor in the department of modern languages and literatures at Creighton University, will share her perspective on the French Impressionists during exhibition gallery talks. One talk will be in English (Thursday, July 11) and, for French language enthusiasts and students, one in French (Thursday, July 18). The gallery talks are free and begin at 6:30 pm.

Lund was educated at the University of Iowa and at the Sorbonne, University of Paris, where she completed the Degré Supérieur of French language and civilization with a minor in art history. In 2000 she received the French Ministry of Education's highest education honor – Knight of the Order of the French Academic Palms.

Bastille Day

Bastille Day, the French national holiday, is a celebration of French culture. While it is true that the storming of the Bastille took place on July 14, 1789, sparking the French Revolution, the modern holiday actually commemorates the Festival of the Federation. The festival, held in honor of the French National Guard on July 14, 1790, marked the first anniversary of the storming of the Bastille. Come to Joslyn on the 224th anniversary (Sunday, July 14, from 5–8 pm) for a night of entertainment, wine and food pairings, art talks, and more!

This program is organized in part by Alliance Française d'Omaha. Paid advance registration is required for this event (reservations may be made at joslyn.org beginning June 1). Participants in the wine and food tasting must be 21 or older. This event is intended for an adult audience.

A Night in Paris

Families are invited to come late and experience the Joslyn version of the City of Light on Friday, August 2, from 6–9 pm. The evening includes fun art-making activities, Parisian games, and treats, as well as a performance and workshop presented by Ballet Nebraska. Space is limited. Paid advance reservations are strongly encouraged at joslyn.org (guests may also pay at the door). Admission: Joslyn Members, \$5 per

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person; General Public, \$10 per person. When making reservations online, guests may add a Joslyn annual membership to their cart to immediately receive member pricing for *A Night in Paris* (note: the membership and event registration must be purchased simultaneously for the discount to be applied).

The Secrets of Paris: Art, Food, Culture, & What's Hot

On Thursday, August 29, beginning at 6 pm, Doni Belau, founder of Girls Guide to Paris (.com) will discuss her favorite city in the world, Paris. Belau will offer an in-depth look at the *arrondissements* (districts) of Paris, noting which artists historically frequented these neighborhoods. She will share many photos as well as her expertise on how to "do Paris right." An open and free-wheeling discussion will be encouraged. Participants will walk away with a tip sheet on Belau's favorite bistros, lesser known museums, hotels, and more. Exhibition viewing and a wine and cheese reception follows the lecture.

An online city guide, girlsguidetoparis.com features over 4,000 pages of ideas, services, and insider tips for shopping in, dining in, and visiting Paris – all tested and personally selected by Doni and her team of locally based editors. Belau grew up in Fremont, Nebraska, and now divides her time between Bedford Corners, New York, and France. She and her husband owned an apartment in Paris for six years and now have a house on the Dordogne River in the Bordeaux region. Before the travel business overtook her life, she was a fundraiser, an activist, and a political and not-for-profit consultant.

This program is sponsored by Lamson, Dugan and Murray, LLP. Paid advance registration is required for this event: \$25 Joslyn Members; \$35 general public (includes hors d'oeuvres and one free wine ticket; cash bar thereafter). This event is intended for an adult audience. Make reservations online today at joslyn.org.

French Films

Details to come about an August screening of French films presented in partnership with Film Streams.

Additional Programs

Many of Joslyn's regularly scheduled programs will be presented with French flair this summer.

- Saturday Surprise! – free drop-in art-making program (10 am–noon) will feature Impressionism: June 8 & 22 (Activity hint: Dancers); July 6 & 20 (Activity hint: 3-d fields); August 3 & 17 (Activity hint: Flowers and fruit)
- Story Adventures free drop-in gallery reading program (June 18 @ 10:30 am features Impressionism)
- Stroller Tours (June 19 @ 9:15 am features the exhibition; this program for adults with small children requires advance reservations and payment at the door; visit joslyn.org)
- Scott EdTech Gallery has a new updated Impressionism Art Pack available for free checkout

PICTURED (PAGE 1): Claude Monet (French, 1840-1926), *Port of Dieppe, Evening*, 1882, oil on canvas, Collection of the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Gift of Montgomery H. W. Ritchie, 1996.2.7



Our Mission – Joslyn Art Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the visual arts of the highest quality, fostering appreciation and enjoyment of art for the benefit of a diverse audience.

Our Vision – To be cherished and respected as a premier art museum.

The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, café, and shop.

General Museum Admission: Free

Renoir to Chagall Exhibition Admission: Free

Regular Museum Hours (includes exhibition): Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10 am–4 pm; Thursday, 10 am–8 pm; Sunday, noon–4 pm; closed Monday and major holidays.

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