Philadelphia Museum of

The Year Ahead 2015-2016

The Rodin Museum Reopening February 7, 2015

The Rodin Museum, which holds one of the largest collections of works by French sculptor Auguste Rodin in the United States, will reopen on Saturday, February 7. The new presentation will showcase the sculptor's remarkable achievements as a portraitist focusing on his most iconic portraits as well as exceptional works that have not been on view for several years. It brings together a group that embodies the artist's realist spirit, offering a broader understanding of his contribution to the formation of modern art.

Jennifer Thompson, the Gloria and Jack Drosdick Associate Curator of European Painting and Sculpture before 1900 and the Rodin Museum, said: "One of the great delights of this rich collection is the range of works that illuminate the breadth of Rodin's artistic career. His portraits were prized in his day for their depth and honesty, and they continue to offer fascinating insights into his sculptural practice. In the new installation, visitors will have the opportunity to look at this prolific and complex artist from a fresh perspective."

Among the highlights are busts demonstrating Rodin's varied approach in pursuing portrait commissions, including those of such notable figures as Pope Benedict XV, composer Gustav Mahler, and publishing magnate Joseph Pulitzer. The artist's depiction of Madame Vicuña, the wife of the Chilean ambassador to Paris, was the favored sculpture at the Salon of 1888— a validating moment in the sculptor's career. The portraits also include a number of celebrated

French writers such as Honoré de Balzac, Victor Hugo, and Barbey d'Aurevilly, and several fellow artists such as Jules Dalou, Alphonese Legros, John-Paul Laurens, and Eugène Guillaume. These works will be highlighted within a broader narrative of Rodin's life, his career, and the culture of late nineteenth and early-twentieth century Paris. Also of great interest is *The Athlete*, a work that conveys Rodin's fascination with anatomical detail. The model for this work was Samuel Stockton White III, the only Philadelphian to model for Rodin.

The New South Asian Galleries Reopening fall 2016

The Philadelphia Museum of Art is embarking upon a comprehensive transformation of the galleries dedicated to its outstanding collection of art from the Indian subcontinent and the Himalayan regions. For the first time in 40 years, the Museum will update the physical gallery space and reimagine how the masterworks tell their stories. The overarching aim is to inspire curiosity, ignite emotion, and deepen visitor engagement with the art and cultures of South Asia. The reinstallation will begin on March 2, 2015 (last public day March 1) and extend until fall 2016. During the period when the galleries are closed, the Museum will present a number of rotating installations to showcase key aspects of the collection in other spaces around the Museum.

The Museum's exceptional collection of art from the Indian subcontinent gained prominence in 1919, with the donation of a South Indian temple hall, which made Philadelphia the only place outside Asia where a visitor could experience the sculpted figures and architecture unique to the temples of India. Dr. Stella Kramrisch (1896–1993), one of the twentieth century's preeminent historians of India's art, built the Museum's world-class South Asian collections, expanding them to include the full range of sculptures, paintings, textiles, and folk arts from across the subcontinent along with masterpieces of Buddhist art from Tibet. She donated over one thousand works of art. In recent decades, all aspects of the collection have been further enriched by important gifts and acquisitions including, notably, the bequest of Dr. Alvin O. Bellak's extensive collection of Indian miniatures in 2004.

Ink and Gold: Art of the Kano February 16 - May 10, 2015

This exhibition examines a remarkable lineage of painters in Japan, spanning more than 400 years, who were originally patronized by powerful military rulers, the shoguns. The Kano artists produced large screens and doors designed to enhance the impressive castles and estates of elites, as well as intricate scrolls, albums and fans. Many are designated by the Japanese government as important cultural properties and are rarely seen outside Japan. The exhibition will show the Kano evolution from a family studio established in the fifteenth century by Kano Masanobu into a prestigious school of professional artists who trained and set the standard for generations. While the influence of Chinese art was strong in earlier centuries, in the late nineteenth century Kano-trained artists adapted techniques and ideas newly introduced from the West. With the special cooperation of the Tokyo National Museum and assistance from the Agency for Cultural Affairs in Japan, *Ink and Gold* is drawn primarily from Japanese collections, with additional loans, and key works from the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

This exhibition is made possible by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, Toshiba Corporation, Toshiba International Foundation, The Japan Foundation, Blakemore Foundation, The Hollis Endowment for East Asian Art Educational Programming, and The Robert Montgomery Scott Endowment for Exhibitions. Additional generous support has been provided by Maxine S. and Howard H. Lewis, Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer and Joseph Neubauer, Steve and Gretchen Burke, Joan and John Thalheimer, the Estate of J. Welles Henderson, Barbara B. and Theodore R. Aronson, Andrea M. Baldeck, M.D., Marguerite and Gerry Lenfest, Sueyun and Gene Locks, and Cecilia Segawa Seigle Tannenbaum, and by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. The accompanying publication was supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Fund for Scholarly Publications at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and The Women's Committee of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The exhibition is organized by the Philadelphia Museum of Art and co-organized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan with the special co-operation of the Tokyo National Museum. International transportation is sponsored by Japan Airlines.

Promotional support is provided by H MART.

Shelley Spector: Keep the Home Fires Burning March 5 - September 27, 2015

This spring the Museum will present an exhibition of new work by Philadelphia-based artist Shelley Spector.She will create a sculptural environment, with some freestanding works and some suspended from the ceiling. Using wood, vintage textiles, furniture parts, and other recycled materials, Spector makes large flower-like structures, birdcages, tomato-shaped pincushions and wood and fabric lions from deconstructed and reassembled materials. The exhibition is Spector's response to an embroidery, created in 1943, in the Museum's collection that depicts early Pennsylvania German life.

Dilys Blum, The Jack M. and Annette Y. Friedland Senior Curator of Costume and Textiles, invited Spector to explore the Museum's collection of costume and textiles to generate ideas. A large embroidered hanging, in the form of a traditional Pennsylvania German "show towel," was selected. Designed by the accomplished folk art historian Francis Lichten (1889-1961), it was embroidered by her 82-year old mother, and resonated with Spector's life and work. Like Lichten, Spector enlisted the help of her own mother Anita to help create this installation. Finding many parallels in her life and art with Frances Lichten, Spector's work explores ways in which basic symbols, motifs, and patterns are recorded in objects, passed from person to person, and transmitted universally.

The exhibition is supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Northern Lights: Scandinavian Design May 23 - September 27, 2015

Drawing from the Museum's exceptional holdings, *Northern Highlights* explores the outstanding achievements of Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway from the time of the triumphant showing of Scandinavian design at the 1900 World's Fair in Paris to the present day. The exhibition will place a special emphasis on the mid-twentieth century, when an interest and appreciation for design from Scandinavia reached new heights in the United States and designers like Hans Wegner and manufacturers like Arabia and Marimekko became household names.

Through approximately 100 objects in materials ranging from furniture and ceramics to textiles and metalwork, the exhibition will explore the underlying philosophies and aesthetic characteristics of Scandinavian design. Furniture by Hans Wegner among others demonstrates the strong sense of tradition and reliance on natural materials that typifies much of the furniture production. Works like those by Axel Salto, who provided ceramic designs to the Royal Copenhagen factory for nearly three decades, highlight the all-important practice of many Scandinavian firms of employing artists and designers.

Other objects such as Ergonomi Design Gruppen's "Eat and Drink" flatware, designed for the physically impaired, will spotlight the interest on the part of many Scandinavian designers in the social impact of design.

The exhibition will also include work by contemporary designers who embrace traditional practices as well as those who challenge them. The realm of new media will be represented by *Minecraft*, a hugely popular video game in which users create a complex virtual environment with simple building blocks that was designed by Swede Markus Persson in 2009.

Discovering the Impressionists: Paul Durand-Ruel and the New Painting June 24 - September 13, 2015

This major exhibition will explore a vital figure behind the rise of Impressionism, a visionary Parisian art dealer who championed the new style of painting at a time when such groundbreaking shifts in painting were not widely embraced. The exhibition will examine the critical years from 1865 to 1905 when the dealer Paul Durand-Ruel inspired and promoted Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Édouard Manet, Camille Pissarro, Alfred Sisley, Edgar Degas, Mary Cassatt and others. It is the first to highlight the role of this eminent figure in the struggle and triumph of Impressionism, regarded today as the father of the modern art market. Nearly all of the works gathered together for this exhibition had once been part of the Durand-Ruel gallery stock. The extraordinary quality of these paintings is a testament to the dealer's deep personal relationships with the now-celebrated artists, his unwavering belief in contemporary painting, and his substantial business acumen.

The exhibition is organized by the Philadelphia Museum of Art, by the National Gallery, London, and by the Réunion des musées nationaux - Grand Palais in collaboration with the Musée d'Orsay, Paris.

The exhibition is made possible by The Women's Committee of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Robert Lehman Foundation, Christie's, The Annenberg Endowment for Special Exhibitions, and The Harriet and Ronald Lassin Fund for Special Exhibitions. Additional generous support has been provided by Dennis Alter, Steve and Gretchen Burke, Maude de Schauensee, John and Gloria Drosdick, Lois G. and Julian A. Brodsky, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Linck, Martha Hamilton Morris and I. Wistar Morris III, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Thalheimer, Barbara B. and Theodore R. Aronson, and Constance and Sankey Williams. The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

Multitude, Solitude: The Photographs of Dave Heath September 19 – December 20, 2015

Dave Heath's powerful mid-century photographs wed photography's expressive potential with his own--and post-war America's--troubled emotional undercurrents. An innovator who sought new approaches to sequence and narrative in books and slide presentations, Heath is less well known to American audiences than contemporaries such as Robert Frank and Garry Winogrand.

This is the first definitive survey of the artist's most cogent efforts in black and white photography in the 1950s and 60s, affording a rare opportunity to appreciate the originality and emotional richness of his artistic vision.

The exhibition is organized by the Nelson-Atkins Museum.

Audubon to Warhol: The Art of American Still Life October 27, 2015 – January 10, 2016

This exhibition is the first such survey in three decades. *Audubon to Warhol* will feature oil paintings and watercolors representing the finest accomplishments in the genre from its early nineteenth-century beginnings to mid-twentieth century abstraction.

For more than two centuries, American artists have seized upon still life's inherent versatility. The compelling results range from the perfect serenity of the tabletop compositions created by Raphaelle Peale (1774–1825); to trompe l'oeil, which provokes the senses with eye-fooling realism and enjoyed an especially keen resonance in the post–Civil War United States; to the explosive floral abstractions of Arthur B. Carles (1882–1952) in the twentieth century. Still life is an art of intimacy, and the exhibition will encourage substantive, personal encounters with masterworks drawn from private and public collections across the country.

The exhibition is made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. Horowitz Foundation for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Peter R. and Cynthia K. Kellogg Foundation. Additional generous support is provided by Mr. and Mrs. William C. Buck, Frank J. Hevrdejs, Bonnie and Peter McCausland, Russell C. Ball

III, Sondra and Martin Landes, Jr., Washburn and Susan Oberwager, Sarah Miller Coulson, and other generous individuals. The publication is supported by the Wyeth Foundation for American Art.

International Pop February 24 – May 15, 2016

International Pop chronicles a global phenomenon that emerged in the United Kingdom and United States and swept rapidly through countries in Europe, South America, and to Japan. Pop arose in distinct artistic forms that found common ground in response to growing image culture, consumerism, and the changing political and social landscapes of the postwar period. Focusing on work made from 1956 to 1972, the exhibition presents Pop as a dynamic movement that is at turns celebratory and critical and probing in its message.

Placing American and British Pop alongside lesser known, but no less potent, examples from Brazil, Argentina, Germany, France, Italy, Slovakia, Japan, and other hubs of activity, *International Pop* will reveal the energetic exchange that contributed to a reimagining of art's relationship to a world in transition. With 122 works that range from painting and sculpture to assemblage, installation, and film, the exhibition includes artists from 20 countries. Among them will be James Rosenquist, Claes Oldenburg, Jim Dine, Rosalyn Drexler, Jasper Johns, and Andy Warhol (United States); Richard Hamilton, Peter Blake, and Pauline Boty (United Kingdom), Konrad Lueg, Sigmar Polke, and Gerhard Richter (Germany); Ushio Shinohara, Keiichi Tanaami, and Genpei Akasegawa (Japan); Hélio Oiticica and Antônio Dias (Brazil); and Marta Minujín, Dalila Puzzovio, and Edgardo Giménez (Argentina). *International Pop* navigates this new world of image-making and amplifies the scope and tenor of Pop, revealing the tremendous variety and complexity art created during this pivotal period.

International Pop is organized by the Walker Art Center. This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

Exhibition hours

The Philadelphia Museum of Art is open Tuesday through Sunday 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Wednesday and Friday until 8:45 p.m. The Rodin Museum is open Wednesday through Monday 10:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.

Social media

Facebook: philamuseum; Twitter: philamuseum; Tumblr: philamuseum; YouTube: PhilaArtMuseum; Instagram: @philamuseum

The Philadelphia Museum of Art is one of the most important museums in the United States, with a collection of more than 227,000 works of art. The Museum's many galleries present painting, sculpture, works on paper, photography, decorative arts, textiles, and architectural settings from Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the United States. Its facilities include a landmark main building; the Ruth and Raymond G. Perelman Building; the Rodin Museum; and two historic houses in Fairmount Park, Mount Pleasant and Cedar Grove. The Museum offers a wide variety of activities for public audiences, including special exhibitions, programs for children and families, lectures, concerts, and films.

For additional press information contact the press office at pressroom@philamuseum.org or 215-684-7860. For general information, call 215-763-8100 or visit <u>philamuseum.org</u>.