



PRESS RELEASE

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TATE BRITAIN

THE EY EXHIBITION: IMPRESSIONISTS IN LONDON, FRENCH ARTISTS IN EXILE (1870-1904)

2 November 2017 – 29 April 2018

Tate Britain, Linbury Galleries

Open daily 10.00 – 18.00

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This autumn, Tate Britain will bring together over 100 beautiful works by Monet, Tissot, Pissarro and others in the first large-scale exhibition to chart the stories of French artists who sought refuge in Britain during the Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871). *The EY Exhibition: Impressionists in London, French Artists in Exile (1870-1904)* will map the artistic networks they built in Britain and consider the aesthetic impact London had on the artists' work.

The EY Exhibition: Impressionists in London will look at French painters' keen observations of British culture and social life, which were notably different to the café culture found in Paris. Evocative depictions of figures enjoying London parks such as Pissarro's *Kew Green* 1892 will be shown, which were in stark contrast to formal French gardens where walking on the grass was prohibited. Scenes of regattas as painted by Alfred Sisley and James Tissot in *The Ball on Shipboard* c.1874 will also be shown, demonstrating how British social codes and traditions captured the imagination of the Impressionists at the time.

While in London, French artists gravitated towards notable figures who would help them develop their careers and provide them with financial support. The exhibition will look at the mentorship Monet received from Charles-François Daubigny and consider the significant role of opera singer and art patron Jean-Baptiste Faure – works that he owned including Sisley's *Molesey Weir, Hampton Court, Morning* 1874 will be displayed. However, one of the most influential figures to be celebrated will be art dealer Paul Durand-Ruel, who first met Monet and Pissarro in London during their respective exile in 1870-71. Durand-Ruel purchased over 5000 Impressionist works over his lifetime, which in Monet's own words, saved them from starving.

Part of the exhibition will examine the central role of Alphonse Legros in French émigré networks. As Professor of Fine Art at the Slade School in London from 1876 – 1893, he made a dynamic impact on British art education both as a painter and etcher, and exerted a decisive influence on the representation of peasant life as can be seen in *The Tinker* 1874. He introduced his patrons Constantine Alexander Ionides and George Howard, 9th Earl of Carlisle, to sculptor Aimé-Jules Dalou who then, together with fellow sculptor and émigré Edouard Lantéri, shaped British institutions by changing the way modelling was taught. Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux's sojourns in London, which he initially planned in order to stay close to his great patron, the exiled Emperor Napoleon III, will also be examined.

The final and largest section of the exhibition will be dedicated to representations of the Thames. Featuring a group of Monet's *Houses of Parliament* series, this room will examine how depictions of the Thames and London developed into a key theme in French art. A selection of André Derain's paintings of London landmarks, which answer directly to Monet's, will demonstrate the continuity of this motif in art history. The show will conclude with the *Entente Cordiale* which, in the case of Monet in particular, marked the culmination of an artistic project which started in 1870.

The EY Exhibition: Impressionists in London, French Artists in Exile (1870-1904) will be curated by Dr Caroline Corbeau-Parsons in collaboration with the Petit Palais and Paris Musées. The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue and a programme of talks and events in the gallery.

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For high-resolution images visit tate.org.uk/press

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT THE EY EXHIBITIONS

The EY Exhibition: Impressionists in London is part of a six year arts partnership between EY and Tate. The partnership has supported hugely successful and widely acclaimed exhibitions, shedding new light on major figures and moments in art history. These include *The EY Exhibition: Paul Klee – Making Visible* in 2013, *The EY Exhibition: Late Turner – Painting Set Free* in 2014, *The EY Exhibition: Sonia Delaunay* in 2015, and *The EY Exhibition: The World Goes Pop* also in 2015 and *The EY Exhibition: Wifredo Lam* in 2016 and. This will continue with *The EY Exhibition: Picasso 1932 – Love, Fame, Tragedy* in 2018. The partnership makes EY one of the largest corporate supporters of Tate, which is extended through corporate memberships at Tate Liverpool, Tate St Ives, and a number of the Plus Tate partners around the country.

Michel Driessen, Partner Sponsor of the EY Arts Programme & TAS Markets Leader, UK & Ireland, EY, said: 'EY is delighted to support *The EY Exhibition: Impressionists in London*, a major show of the work of artists who fled from France to Britain in the 1870s to escape the trauma of the Franco-Prussian war. Inspired by British culture and society, the extraordinary paintings offer a fascinating new perspective of London. Our sixth EY Exhibition as part of The EY Tate Arts Partnership, we are proud to help make these ground-breaking exhibitions possible, offering people scope for inspiration and new perspectives and forming part of our purpose to build a better working world.'

ABOUT EY

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