

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **LAST CHANCE TO SEE *INTIMATE IMPRESSIONISM* FROM THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART AT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM; CLOSING JAN 10**

Intimately scaled paintings from 19<sup>th</sup>-century masters to return home after final stop on international tour



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SEATTLE, WA – Don't miss the final days of the Seattle Art Museum's current special exhibition, *Intimate Impressionism from the National Gallery of Art*, which closes on Sunday, January 10. The show features 68 intimately scaled Impressionist and Post-Impressionist still lifes, portraits, and landscapes from 19<sup>th</sup>-century painters such as Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Paul Cézanne, Edgar Degas and Vincent van Gogh.

The temporary closure of the National Gallery's East Building for major renovation and expansion made possible the rare opportunity to see this select group of paintings. Seattle is the last stop for this exhibition following an international tour that included Ara Pacis Museum of the Capitoline Museums, Rome; Fine Arts Museums in San Francisco; McNay Art Museum, San Antonio; and Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, Tokyo.

The charm and fluency of these works invite close scrutiny and reward repeat visits. Offering beautiful glimpses into the personal lives of the artists, these paintings depict their homes, favorite scenes, pets, gardens, pastimes, friends, and family—making the show very relevant to a 21<sup>st</sup>-century audience captivated by social media's ability to capture the everyday moments of our lives.

"It's been a complete joy to have these paintings in the museum," says Chiyo Ishikawa, SAM's Susan Brotman Deputy Director for Art and Curator of European Painting and Sculpture. "It was so rewarding to see our visitors enjoy the unusual treat of seeing such intimate, behind-the-scenes moments from these famous artists." Here's Chiyo discussing one of her favorite works in the show, Manet's *A King Charles Spaniel*, which she selected to be the first painting seen in the exhibition.

The majority of works come from the celebrated Ailsa Mellon Bruce Collection, given to the National Gallery of Art in 1970. This core group is bolstered by works from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon and gifts of several other important collectors.





*Intimate Impressionism* is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, with an essay about the history of the collection by Mary Morton, curator and head of the department of French paintings at the National Gallery.

The exhibition is organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington. Special exhibitions at SAM are made possible by donors to the SAM Fund for Special Exhibitions. Presenting sponsors are Nordstrom, Microsoft, and the Seattle Art Museum Supporters (SAMS). Major sponsors are Delta Air Lines and Wells Fargo. Corporate sponsor is Sotheby's. Media sponsors are KING 5 and The Seattle Times. Promotional partner is Visit Seattle.

**Photo credits:** Installation view of *Intimate Impressionism from the National Gallery of Art* at the Seattle Art Museum. © Seattle Art Museum, Photo: Natali Wiseman. Installation view of *Intimate Impressionism from the National Gallery of Art* at the Seattle Art Museum. © Seattle Art Museum, Photo: Mark Woods. Image credits: *The Artist's Sister at a Window*, 1869, Berthe Morisot, French, 1841-1895, oil on canvas, 21 9/16 x 18 1/4 in., National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ailsa Mellon Bruce Collection. *Mound of Butter*, 1875/1885, Antoine Vollon, French, oil on canvas, 19 3/4 x 24 in., National Gallery of Art, Washington, Chester Dale Fund. *A King Charles Spaniel*, ca. 1866, Édouard Manet, French, 1832-1883, oil on linen, 18 1/8 x 14 15/16 in., National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ailsa Mellon Bruce Collection.

#### ABOUT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

As the leading visual art institution in the Pacific Northwest, SAM draws on its global collections, powerful exhibitions, and dynamic programs to provide unique educational resources benefiting the Seattle region, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. SAM was founded in 1933 with a focus on Asian art. By the late 1980s the museum had outgrown its original home, and in 1991 a new 155,000-square-foot downtown building, designed by Robert Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates, opened to the public. The 1933 building was renovated and reopened as the Asian Art Museum. SAM's desire to further serve its community was realized in 2007 with the opening of two stunning new facilities: the nine-acre Olympic Sculpture Park (designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architects)—a "museum without walls," free and open to all—and the Allied Works Architecture designed 118,000-square-foot expansion of its main, downtown location, including 232,000 square feet of additional space built for future expansion.

From a strong foundation of Asian art to noteworthy collections of African and Oceanic art, Northwest Coast Native American art, European and American art, and modern and contemporary art, the strength of SAM's collection of more than 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures and time periods.