



**TERRA FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS ORGANIZES SPECIAL EXHIBITION WITH  
MUSÉE DU LOUVRE, PARIS**

***AMERICAN ARTISTS AND THE LOUVRE: JUNE 14 – SEPTEMBER 18, 2006***

**FIRST TIME AMERICAN ART IS EXHIBITED AT THE LOUVRE  
SUMMER 2006 IN PARIS TO BE “AMERICAN SEASON”: EXHIBITIONS, CONCERTS, & EVENTS**



Samuel F. B. Morse (1791-1872). *Gallery of the Louvre*, 1831-1833.  
Terra Foundation for American Art, Chicago

**For Immediate Release: February 27, 2006**

The Chicago-based **Terra Foundation for American Art** and the **Musée du Louvre**, Paris, will collaborate on a major two-part exhibition to be presented at the Louvre from **June 14 - September 18, 2006**. *American Artists and the Louvre* comprises some 30 paintings and marks the first time that an American art exhibition will be in the 212-year-old revered French museum. The exhibition explores the role of the Louvre in the development of American art from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, as American artists traveled to Paris and visited the Louvre, often setting up easel and paints in the galleries.

*American Artists and the Louvre* will be installed in two museum galleries: La Chapelle, a dedicated space for special exhibitions, and the Salon Carré, through which 85% of all visitors pass. Each exhibition space will reference the other, ensuring high visibility for the show throughout the summer months. Of the Louvre's 6.8 million visitors last year, 865,000 were Americans.

The exhibition will be accompanied by “**An American Season**,” a complementary program of films, concerts, and other events in the Tuileries gardens, as well as lectures and symposia at the Louvre. The Terra Foundation's Musée d'Art Américain Giverny (located an hour outside Paris) will also present a series of related programs including Europe's first monographic exhibition on **Winslow Homer**, as well as lectures and symposia in the gardens and galleries of the Giverny museum. Other program highlights include a concert by the Orchestre National de France conducted by **Kurt Masur**, Director Emeritus of the New York Philharmonic, on the longest day of the year (June 21) as part of France's esteemed music festival, *la fête de la musique*.

## **Exhibition Details**

*American Artists and the Louvre* is co-curated by Olivier Meslay of the Louvre and Elizabeth Kennedy of the Terra Foundation, and brings together works on loan from leading national and international collections. Paintings on loan from the Terra Foundation's distinguished collection include **Thomas Hart Benton's** *Slaves* (1924–27) and **Samuel F.B. Morse's** painting *The Gallery of the Louvre* (1831–33), which will be returned to the Salon Carré, the site of its inception, after 175 years. The painting depicts the Salon Carré with Morse's imaginative selection of the Louvre's most admired Old Master paintings, which are carefully reproduced in the style of the original artist. Works on loan from other collections include paintings by Benjamin West, John Vanderlyn, Thomas Cole, Thomas Eakins, James Whistler, Mary Cassatt, and Rembrandt Peale.

Part I of the exhibition, ***The Foundations of an Exchange, 1760-1860***, curated by Olivier Meslay, will demonstrate that artistic ties between the United States and France have a long and deep history. This portion of the show, located in La Chapelle gallery, will examine the period when Americans first began to study at the Académie Française and exhibit in the annual Salons held at the Louvre. Paintings on view include works by such pioneering American artists as West, Vanderlyn, Cole, and Homer.

In Part II of the exhibition entitled ***An Enduring Legacy***, Terra Foundation curator Elizabeth Kennedy will consider the Louvre as a mythic academy where many Western European masterworks of particular interest to American artists could be studied and savored. This exhibition section features an intimate selection of significant works by notable American artists on the scene after 1870, including Benton, Eakins, Whistler, **Henry Ossawa Tanner**, **William Merritt Chase**, **Robert Henri** and **Edward Hopper**.

## **About the Terra Foundation for American Art & the Musée d'art Américain Giverny**

The Chicago-based Terra Foundation for the Arts is dedicated to promoting the exploration, understanding, and enjoyment of the visual arts of the United States. The Foundation's programming is based on the belief that art has the potential both to distinguish cultures and to unite them. Founded in 1978, the Terra Foundation for the Arts has initiated and supported local, national, and international programs in the areas of American art presentation, scholarship, and education. Through grantmaking and other activities, the Foundation strives to foster an international dialogue on American art. The foundation is further distinguished by its exceptional collection of more than 700 artworks dating from the colonial period through 1945. Part of its collection is on view at the Musée d'Art Américain Giverny.

Founded in 1992, The Musée d'Art Américain Giverny is the only museum in Europe devoted to American art from 1750 to the present. Situated adjacent to the historic home of Claude Monet, the Museum's pristine grounds, gardens and landscape were once home to an artist's colony of American Impressionists who took up residence in the area to paint. Giverny is located less than hour from Paris and can be accessed via car, train and bus.

## **About the Musée du Louvre**

Established by the French Republic in 1793, the Musée du Louvre is one of the world's greatest encyclopedic museums, with international collections ranging in date from the birth of ancient civilizations to the first half of the nineteenth century. In addition to presenting its renowned collection, the Louvre has an active program of temporary exhibitions and public programs.

The museum is located in a palace that is itself a window onto French history, architecture, and design. It was originally constructed in 1190 as a fortress built by King Philippe August; in 1546 Francis I began to transform the building into a royal palace. From then until 1870, the palace was almost continuously expanded along the right bank of the Seine. Operated as museum for 212 years, the Louvre is among the oldest museums in Europe.

**Getting to the Louvre:**

Métro : Palais-Royal-Musée du Louvre station.

Bus: lines 21, 24, 27, 39, 48, 68, 69, 72, 81, 95 to the Louvre Pyramid.

Car: An underground parking garage is situated on avenue du Général Lemonnier.

**Hours:**

Monday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday, 9am – 6pm

Wednesday & Friday, 9 am to 10 pm

Closed Tuesdays

**Admission:**

€8.50 (approximately \$10 USD) for full-day access to the Louvre

€6 (approximately \$7 USD) on Wednesday and Friday evenings, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**Free** admission for all visitors the first Sunday of each month, and for youths under 26 after 6 p.m. on Fridays; free admission at all times for youths under 18 and full-time students.

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