

Wednesday 12 August 2009

# MASTERPIECES FROM PARIS

## Van Gogh, Gauguin, Cézanne & beyond

### POST-IMPRESSIONISM FROM THE MUSÉE D'ORSAY

**National Gallery of Australia announces one of the most exceptional art events ever to be held in Australia**

4 December 2009 – 5 April 2010  
Canberra only

*Masterpieces from Paris: Van Gogh, Gauguin, Cezanne and beyond*, an extraordinary exhibition presented by the National Gallery of Australia in association with the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, was officially announced on Monday, 10 August, by the Arts Minister, The Hon Peter Garrett AM, MP.

From December 2009 through to April 2010, the Australian public won't have to travel to Paris to see masterpieces by Vincent van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, Paul Cézanne, Georges Seurat, Pierre Bonnard, Claude Monet, Maurice Denis and Édouard Vuillard—they can visit them in Canberra.

*"Australians will be able to experience the best of French culture in the nation's capital over summer and autumn 2009 and 2010. This truly is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for art lovers and novices, students and families to see these renowned works that many have grown up with in art history books. Canberra will be the world premiere for this exhibition, which will then travel to Tokyo and San Francisco,"* said Arts Minister, Peter Garrett.

Among the 114 paintings included in the exhibition are some of the best-known works of modern art. These works draw millions of tourists in Paris to the Musée d'Orsay, one of the great museums of 19th-century art.

*"This is the most important exhibition to come to the National Gallery of Australia. Never before have so many famous masterpieces been brought together for one exhibition in this country. We are delighted to be co-curating this exhibition with the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, the museum with the most significant holdings of Post-Impressionist art in the world."*

*These works almost never leave the Musée d'Orsay even singly and never before in these numbers,"* said Ron Radford AM, Director National Gallery of Australia.

*Masterpieces from Paris* shows the explosive arrival of modern art in Europe. The most famous and influential painters are represented by many works. The exhibition showcases seven van Gogh's, nine Gauguin's, eight Cézanne's and eleven Seurat's. In addition, there are many paintings by Bernard (five), Bonnard (nine), Denis (ten), Monet (five) and Vuillard (eight), among others.

*"We are renovating our Post-Impressionist Galleries at the Musée d'Orsay which means we are able to lend these works together for the first time. Australia will be the first country to see these works outside France,"* said Guy Cogeval, President Musée d'Orsay, Paris.

Visitors will encounter van Gogh's *Bedroom at Arles* 1889, Gauguin's painting *Tahitian women* 1891, Cézanne's beloved *Mount Saint-Victoire* c 1890, and many other great examples by Post-Impressionist painters.

*Masterpieces from Paris* is one of the most exceptional art events ever to be held in Australia, the exhibition will be on show in Canberra only at the National Gallery of Australia from 4 December 2009 to 5 April 2010.

**Media enquiries:**

**Images: A selection of images from the exhibition can be downloaded via [www.nga.gov.au/mediacentre](http://www.nga.gov.au/mediacentre)**

**For more information, interviews, or to arrange a visit to see the exhibition for yourself, please contact Lauren Griffiths, Threesides, on (02) 8581 1020, 0417 409 264 or [lauren.griffiths@threesides.com.au](mailto:lauren.griffiths@threesides.com.au)**