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BMA PRESENTS 19th-CENTURY FRENCH ART FROM THE LUCAS COLLECTION

BALTIMORE (September 29, 2006) — Paris was at the center of the art world in the 19th century, and Baltimorean George A. Lucas—an art collector and friend to many of the leading French artists of his generation—was there to capture its spirit. From **October 1–December 31, 2006**, The Baltimore Museum of Art presents nearly 200 paintings, sculptures, works on paper, and artist palettes from his acclaimed collection in **A View Toward Paris: The Lucas Collection of 19th-Century French Art**, featuring works by renowned artists such as Edouard Manet, Camille Pissarro, and Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot.

The Lucas Collection illuminates the rich diversity of 19th-century French art and captures the achievements of at least two generations of French painters, from Eugène Delacroix to Mary Cassatt, as well as many lesser known artists who were popular at the time. George A. Lucas (1824-1909) spent five decades in Paris visiting the studios of the most successful artists of his day and buying art for American collectors such as the founders of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Corcoran Gallery of Art. He also amassed more than 20,000 works of art for his own collection, recognized today as one of the most representative assemblages of 19th-century French art in America.



Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot. *Sèvres-Brimborion, View Towards Paris*. 1858/64. The Baltimore Museum of Art: George A. Lucas Collection, BMA 1996.45.66.

“The Lucas Collection makes Baltimore one of the foremost centers for the appreciation of 19th century French art,” said BMA Director Doreen Bolger. “On the 10th anniversary of the BMA’s acquisition of this tremendous art resource, we are grateful to the State of Maryland and numerous individual donors for having made it possible.”

The exhibition reflects the major artistic movements of the 19th century, including Orientalist works by Benjamin Constant and Prosper Marilhat, caricatures by renowned satirist Honoré Daumier, Barbizon paintings by Theodore Rousseau and Charles Daubigny, and sculpture by Rodin’s teacher, Antoine-Louis Barye, as well as works by artists who achieved prominence during their lifetimes only to be forgotten with the passage of time.

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This year the BMA celebrates the 10th anniversary of the acquisition of the Lucas Collection. After being on extended loan to the BMA for more than 60 years, the collection was purchased from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 1996 through the support of the State of Maryland and the great generosity of numerous individuals in the community.

This exhibition is curated by BMA Senior Curator of European Painting & Sculpture Sona Johnston.

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914, the BMA's outstanding collection encompasses 90,000 works of art, including the largest and most significant holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world, as well as masterpieces by Picasso, Cézanne, and van Gogh. An expanding collection of contemporary art features iconic post-1960 works by Andy Warhol and Sol LeWitt, as well as exciting acquisitions by artists such as Kara Walker and Olafur Eliasson. The BMA is also recognized for an internationally acclaimed collection of prints, drawings, and photographs from the 15th century to the present; grand European painting and sculpture from Old Masters to the 19th century; distinguished American painting, sculpture, and decorative arts and Maryland period rooms; one of the most important African collections in the country, and notable examples of Asian, ancient American, and Oceanic art. The BMA's sculpture gardens feature a 100-year survey of modern sculpture on nearly three landscaped acres.

VISITOR INFORMATION

MAJOR NEWS! The Baltimore Museum of Art will eliminate general admission fees and open FREE to the public beginning October 1, 2006, thanks to generous grants from the City of Baltimore and Baltimore County, with additional support from Anne Arundel County.

The Museum is open Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.; and during the first Thursday of every month (except major holidays), 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. The Museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located on Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31st Streets, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit www.artbma.org.

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