



**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Anne Mannix  
amannix@artbma.org

Kelly Linton  
kinton@artbma.org

Sarah Pedroni  
spedroni@artbma.org

443-573-1870

## BMA MODERN MASTERS SERIES HIGHLIGHTS PICASSO AND MATISSE

**BALTIMORE** (January 10, 2006)—Rediscover two of the greatest artists of the 20th century—Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse—in The Baltimore Museum of Art’s Modern Masters Series, a celebration of the Museum’s world-renowned collection of modern art. The BMA is recognized for having the largest and most comprehensive collection of works by Matisse in the world and an outstanding holding of works on paper by Picasso. This series offers a closer look at the genius of these two artists through intimate one-gallery exhibitions of 25 works rarely on view to the public due to their sensitivity to light. Both exhibitions are presented in conjunction with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra’s Explorer Series concerts, which feature masterworks from the BMA’s collection in an innovative musical program.

“This is an exciting opportunity to showcase the extraordinary riches of the BMA’s collection of modern art,” said BMA Director Doreen Bolger. “Through the BMA’s partnership with the BSO, museum goers and concert goers alike can discover how the spirit of the times influenced art and music.”

### ***PICASSO: THE FINAL YEARS***

**January 11–April 16, 2006**

At the end of his life, Pablo Picasso was one of the most famous artists in the world. This one-gallery exhibition—an exploration of his post-war creativity from 1945 until 1968—reveals his continuing genius late in his career through approximately 25 powerful and experimental works on paper. Picasso often returned to his past work as a catalyst for new ideas, a practice that is especially engaging in his late work. His most frequent theme is the artist in the studio, the culmination of a lifelong self-examination of the creative spirit. This is the fifth in a series of special exhibitions highlighting the Museum’s remarkable collection of more than 250 works by Picasso, including a comprehensive holding of the artist’s printmaking spanning 1899-1968. The exhibition is supplemented by important loans of paintings and prints from Baltimore collections.



Pablo Picasso. *Head II*. 1949. The Baltimore Museum of Art. © 2005 Estate of Pablo Picasso/Artists Rights Society (ARS) New York

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"If you think of one's final years as calm, you will be surprised by the level of vitality in Picasso's later works," said exhibition curator Jay Fisher, Senior Curator of Prints, Drawings & Photographs.

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***MATISSE: JAZZ***

**May 3–August 27, 2006**

For the first time in more than a decade, the BMA presents Henri Matisse's illustrated book *Jazz* (1947) in its entirety. Inspired by the artist's memories of the circus, folk tales, and voyages, *Jazz* is widely recognized as one of the greatest masterpieces among artists' books of the 20th century. These 20 vibrantly colored stencil prints are based on a series of collages Matisse created by cutting forms, shapes, and figures from painted paper. The illustrations correspond to the improvisational spirit of jazz music through their abstract compositions and surprising color juxtapositions. The book also includes the artist's handwritten text, which explores his artistic ideas and the inspiration of music.

The exhibition includes related works by Matisse's contemporaries, including Pablo Picasso, Georges Rouault, and Fernand Léger. The BMA is world renowned for its collection of works by Henri Matisse, considered the largest and most significant holding in the world.

These exhibitions are curated by Jay Fisher, BMA Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs and Senior Curator of Prints, Drawings & Photographs.

The Modern Masters Series is generously sponsored by Mercantile Bank & Trust.

**BSO EXPLORER CONCERT SERIES**

In 2006, the BMA and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra partner for an exciting new concert series that blends the musical genius of Stravinsky, Beethoven, and Bernstein with masterpieces by Picasso, Monet, and Matisse. The Explorer Series, a unique concert experience presented at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore and Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda, blends incredible music with commentary by special guest hosts and dramatic presentations of renowned works of art from the BMA's collection.

Single tickets are \$22.50-\$75 and subscriptions start at \$60 at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. Single tickets at the Music Center at Strathmore are \$21-\$78 and subscriptions start at \$50.50. Call the BSO Ticket Office at 410-783-8000 to order or receive additional information.

**The Art of Picasso**

Thursday, January 19, 8 p.m.\*

Friday, January 20 & Saturday, January 21, 8 p.m.

Sunday, January 22, 3 p.m.

This musical program led by conductor Stefan Sanderling showcases the Spanish culture that inspired Picasso, including music from Falla's *Three-Cornered Hat*, Rodrigo's *Concierto D'aranjuez* with guitarist Manuel Barrueco, and Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* ballet, for which Picasso originally designed sets and costumes.

**Monet and the Impressionists**

Thursday, April 6, 8 p.m.\*

Friday, April 7 & Saturday, April 8, 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 9, 3 p.m.

Conductor Jahja Ling presents an evening of musical Impressionism featuring Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*, Ravel's *Shéhérazade*, and Beethoven's "*Eroica*" *Symphony No. 3*, a work of artistic and political rebellion that was dedicated to Napoleon Bonaparte and later retracted in defiance.

**The "Jazz" of Matisse**

Thursday, May 11, 8 p.m.\*

Friday, May 12 & Saturday, May 13, 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 14, 3 p.m.

Audience favorite James Judd delves into the vivid colors and textures of Matisse with the contrapuntal masterpiece *Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor* by Bach, *Bright Blue* by modern composer Michael Torke with piano soloist William Wolfram, and Bernstein's jazz-influenced *Symphony No. 2, "Age of Anxiety."*

\*Concerts held at the Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda.

**THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART**

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19<sup>th</sup>-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 15<sup>th</sup> century to the present; grand European painting and sculpture from Old Masters to the 19<sup>th</sup> 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**

The Baltimore Museum of Art 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.–8 p.m. The Museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA will close at 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 24. Admission is \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors ages 65 & over; \$6 for college students (full time with ID); and free for ages 18 & under. Admission is free on the first Thursday of every month and for related Free First Thursday activities. The BMA is located on Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31<sup>st</sup> Streets, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit the BMA's web site at [www.artbma.org](http://www.artbma.org).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT BMA PUBLIC RELATIONS AT 443-573-1870**

Anne Mannix  
[amannix@artbma.org](mailto:amannix@artbma.org)

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[klinton@artbma.org](mailto:klinton@artbma.org)

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