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HIGH MUSEUM LAUNCHES THREE-YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH LOUVRE TO BRING HUNDREDS OF MASTERPIECES TO ATLANTA

*First-Year Exhibitions Feature Works from the Louvre's Royal Collection
By Artists Such As Raphael, Poussin, Rembrandt and Velasquez*

Majority of Works Have Never Traveled to the United States

ATLANTA – In October 2006, the High Museum of Art will launch an unprecedented, three-year partnership with the Musée du Louvre that will bring hundreds of works of art from Paris to Atlanta. Through the “Louvre Atlanta” partnership, the High will present a series of long-term, thematic exhibitions featuring masterworks from the Louvre’s collections, many of which have never been seen before in the United States. Lead patronage for the project has been provided by longtime High Museum Board Member Anne Cox Chambers, who is joined by Accenture as Presenting Partner, and UPS, Turner Broadcasting Corporation, The Coca-Cola Company, Delta Airlines and AXA Art Insurance as Lead Corporate Partners.



The central exhibition of the first year, “Kings as Collectors,” will feature 32 works assembled during the reigns of Kings Louis XIV and Louis XVI, including two very special masterpieces from the Louvre’s collection—Raphael’s “Portrait of Baldassare Castiglione” and Nicolas Poussin’s “Et in Arcadia Ego.” The exhibition will be on view from October 14, 2006 through September 2, 2007 in the High’s new Anne Cox Chambers Wing, which will be devoted exclusively to “Louvre Atlanta” for the entire three-year partnership.

Two shorter focus exhibitions featuring drawings and decorative items from the royal collections will complement “Kings as Collectors” with consecutive presentations throughout the year. On view concurrently with “Kings as Collectors” through January 28, 2007, “The King’s Drawings” will bring together approximately 60 works from the Louvre’s extensive holdings to become one of the most significant exhibitions of old master drawings ever mounted in the Southeastern United States. More than two thirds of these works have never been exhibited in the United States. From March 3, 2007 through September 2, 2007, “Decorative Arts of the Kings” will showcase luxury items manufactured for the Royal Families and their court—none of which, according to the Louvre’s records, have traveled to the United States since they entered the Louvre’s collection.

“This is an unprecedented opportunity to share many remarkable masterpieces from the Louvre with audiences from throughout the Southeast,” said Michael E. Shapiro, Nancy and Holcombe T. Green, Jr. Director of the High Museum of Art. “The ‘Louvre Atlanta’ collaboration continues the High’s longstanding strategy of partnering with international institutions to bring the world’s great art to Atlanta. The project will allow both the Louvre and the High to grow educational initiatives both inside and beyond museum walls, to deepen the visitor experience, and to advance scholarship and professional development.”

Above image: Raphael, *Portrait of Baldassare Castiglione*, 1514-1515. Oil on canvas. Musée du Louvre.

In addition to long-term thematic exhibitions, a significant component of "Louvre Atlanta" will be educational, curatorial and strategic exchanges. The collaboration will encompass the joint development of educational programs, publications, symposia and films exploring exhibitions and related themes. The first educational exchange occurred in January 2006, when a group of students from North Atlanta High School traveled to Paris to visit the Louvre and live with French families. French students will travel to Atlanta to learn about the High's collection when the "Louvre Atlanta" opens in October 2006.

"This is a great opportunity for the Louvre to develop international collaborations with art institutions in new cities like Atlanta," said Henri Loyrette, President/Director of the Musée du Louvre. "The High Museum brings a level of national stature and experience to this partnership that will benefit the Louvre. We have much to learn from one another and look forward to a mutually beneficial exchange of art and ideas."

The "Louvre Atlanta" partnership grew out of a longstanding friendship and history of exchange between Michael Shapiro and Henri Loyrette. The two had collaborated previously on the High's presentations of "Impressionism: Paintings Collected by European Museums" in 1999, and "Paris in the Age of Impressionism: Masterworks from the Musée d'Orsay" in 2002.

"Louvre Atlanta" Year One Exhibitions

Over the course of the three-year partnership, "Louvre Atlanta" will trace the history and development of the Louvre from the 17th century through the present. The three exhibitions in year one will focus on the genesis of the royal collection of the pre-Revolutionary Régime—the works collected by the Kings before the Louvre was converted from a palace to a museum during the late 18th century and that make up the heart of the Louvre's collections. The central exhibition, "**Kings as Collectors**," will be composed primarily of paintings, sculptures and antiquities from the collections of Kings Louis XIV and Louis XVI—the two most important collectors of the 17th and 18th centuries. "Kings as Collectors" will feature paintings by Raphael, Rembrandt, Velázquez, Murillo and Poussin, among others, as well as a group of sculptures that allow for a better understanding of Louis XIV's dual role as collector and patron.

At the center of the exhibition will be a special presentation of Raphael's "Portrait of Baldassare Castiglione," one of the top treasures from the Louvre's permanent collection. On view October 14, 2006 through January 28, 2007, the portrait has never left Paris to travel to the United States according to the Louvre's records. Admired over the years by art historians and artists alike—including Rembrandt and Rubens who produced their own studies of the painting—Raphael's portrait of the famous humanist embodies the same ideals of casual grace, or *sprezzatura*, that Castiglione himself advocated in his famous work, "The Book of the Courtier." Only one undisputed portrait by Raphael can be found in the United States, at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. On October 7, 2006, the High will host "Raphael, Castiglione and European Court Culture," a day-long interdisciplinary symposium that will include discussion by internationally recognized scholars on Italian Renaissance art and the art of Raphael.

Raphael's portrait will be replaced by another Louvre treasure, Nicolas Poussin's "Et in Arcadia Ego." Recalling the works of Raphael and the Renaissance masters in subject matter and style, Poussin's masterpiece is considered to be the defining example of French classicism.

Opening concurrently with "Kings as Collectors" on October 14, 2006, is the first focus exhibition of year one, "**The King's Drawings**," which will provide an overview of the formation of the royal drawing collection assembled during the reigns of Kings Louis XIV, Louis XV and Louis XVI. On view through January 28, 2007, the exhibition will showcase masterworks from major early private



Above image: Nicolas Poussin, *Et in Arcadia Ego*, ca. 1638-1640. Oil on canvas. Musée du Louvre.

collections, such as Eberhard Jabach and Pierre-Jean Mariette, which entered the royal collections in the 17th and 18th centuries, as well as works by major French artists who served the crown, such as Le Brun, Boel, Mignard and Coypel. Other featured artists will include Grünewald, Dürer, Rembrandt, Rubens and Watteau. A highlight of the exhibition is Raphael's "Head of an Angel," which was a study for the famous Vatican fresco "The Expulsion of Heliodorus."

The second focus exhibition of the first year is "**Decorative Arts of the Kings**," on view March 3, 2007 through September 2, 2007. The exhibition will feature decorative arts commissioned for the courts of Kings Louis XIV, Louis XV and Louis XVI, and will explore works that convey the royal and princely tastes for the decorative arts during the last 100 years of the *Ancien Régime*. These works also show the dexterity and excellence of the French artisans in the royal factories, which were largely subsidized by Louis XIV and his two successors. The presentation includes fine examples of furniture, tapestry, ceramics and silver by manufacturers such as Les Gobelins and Sèvres, and artists such as Germain and Auguste, whose influence can still be seen today.

"Louvre Atlanta" Year Two and Three Exhibitions

Year two of "Louvre Atlanta" will consider the Louvre's collection growth and development during the Napoleonic reign and the Enlightenment, when there was an increased interest in ancient art and archaeology. The central exhibition will feature masterpieces from the founding cultures of Western civilization and will include works from the Louvre's Egyptian, Near Eastern and Greco-Roman antiquities departments.

Year two will also include a focus exhibition presenting the work of Jean-Antoine Houdon, whose portraiture included some of the prominent intellectual and political figures of the time, such as Diderot and Voltaire, as well as our founding fathers, George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. A second focus exhibition will reassemble for the first time an important and influential collection of Greco-Roman and Egyptian antiquities that were installed by the Empress Josephine at Malmaison, her residence located on the outskirts of Paris.

Year three of "Louvre Atlanta" will consider the Louvre of today and tomorrow. Exhibitions under development for this year will explore the impact of the Louvre's collections on the art world today.

Partnership Support

The total budget for "Louvre Atlanta" is estimated at \$18 million. This includes a \$6.4 million payment by the High which will go towards the restoration of the Louvre's 18th-century French decorative arts galleries. The balance of the budget offsets the development of the "Louvre Atlanta" partnership. These funds will allow the High to develop special programming in Atlanta, and will cover costs associated with mounting three years of programming, encompassing the nine exhibitions, such as insurance, travel, marketing, and advertising and security for this unprecedented project.

To date, the High Museum of Art has raised more than \$13 million in support of this project. Lead patronage for the project has been provided by longtime High Museum Board Member Anne Cox Chambers. Accenture is the Presenting Partner. UPS, Turner Broadcasting Corporation, The Coca-Cola Company, Delta Air Lines and AXA Art Insurance are Lead Corporate Partners for "Louvre Atlanta." Additional support has been provided by Forward Arts Foundation, Frances B. Bunzl, Tull Charitable Foundation, Samuel H. Kress Foundation, The Charles Englehard Foundation and American Friends of the Louvre, and Cultural Services, French Consulate General in Atlanta. The Rich Foundation serves as Planning Partner for the partnership.

Musée du Louvre

The Musée du Louvre and its continual architectural transformation has dominated central Paris since the late 12th century. The history of this extraordinary structure and of the museum that has occupied it since

1793 has created universal appeal for over seven million in 2005. The Louvre's collection spans works of art up to 1848. With 35,000 works of art on display, eight curatorial departments—Near Eastern, Egyptian, Greek Etruscan and Roman Antiquities, Islamic Art, Sculptures, Decorative Arts, Paintings, and Prints and Drawings—are a necessity. Celebrated works in the collections include Da Vinci's "La Joconde," best known as the "Mona Lisa;" Egyptian antiquities such as the "Seated Scribe," the "Jewels of Rameses II," and the "Code of Hammurabi;" and Greek Antiquities such as the "Winged Victory of Samothrace" and the "Venus de Milo." *For more information about the Musée du Louvre, please visit www.louvre.fr.*

High Museum of Art

The High Museum of Art, founded in 1905 as the Atlanta Art Association, is the leading art museum in the Southeastern United States. With over 11,000 works of art in its permanent collection, the High Museum of Art has an extensive anthology of 19th- and 20th-century American art; significant holdings of European paintings and decorative art; a growing collection of African American art; and burgeoning collections of modern and contemporary art, photography and African art. The High is also dedicated to supporting and collecting works by Southern artists and is distinguished as the only major museum in North America to have a curatorial department specifically devoted to the field of folk and self-taught art. The High's Media Arts department produces acclaimed annual film series and festivals of foreign, independent and classic cinema. In November 2005, the High opened three new buildings by architect Renzo Piano that more than doubled the Museum's size, creating a vibrant "village for the arts" at the Woodruff Arts Center in Midtown Atlanta. *For more information about the High, please visit www.High.org.*

The Woodruff Arts Center

The Woodruff Arts Center is ranked among the top four arts centers in the nation. A not-for-profit center for performing and visual arts, its campus comprises the Alliance Theatre, the Atlanta College of Art, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the High Museum of Art, Young Audiences and the 14th Street Playhouse.

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