

# MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ST. PETE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG PRESENTS EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTING THE DELICATE AND REFINED ETCHINGS OF NINETEENTH CENTURY ARTIST MAXIME LALANNE**

The exhibition features works drawn from the MFA's extensive collection of more than 500 Lalanne prints, drawings, and books – one of the largest assemblages of Lalanne's works in the world

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (February 23, 2022)** — The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg (MFA) is pleased to announce *Defining Lines: The Prints and Drawings of Maxime Lalanne*, on view at the MFA from February 26 through July 17, 2022. Maxime Lalanne (1827–1886) was a central figure of the etching revival (1850–1930), serving simultaneously as a fine artist, an intrepid entrepreneur, and a teacher.

Like many artists of the time, Lalanne moved to Paris in 1852, where he became increasingly interested in etching. He was a founding member of the Société des Aquafortistes, helping to promote etching as equal in prestige to both painting and drawing. His work first appeared at the Salon in Paris in 1852 with two charcoal drawings and he made his etching debut at the Salon in 1863, submitting three street scenes.

Producing more than 200 prints of varying states and innumerable drawings over the course of his career, Lalanne's wide range of imagery including primarily city views and landscapes fascinated publishers and collectors alike and his *Treatise on Etching* (1866) became one of the foremost books on the subject. His highly refined etchings displays a subtle use of line and delicate sense of shading that elevate his work beyond his obvious technical mastery to achieve sensitivity and depth rarely seen in etching.

“Maxime Lalanne was an integral figure in what became known as the etching revival,” said Assistant Curator Erin Wilson who assembled the exhibition. “The scope of this collection allows us to look at his body of work and his contributions to printmaking from multiple angles and contemplate his broader practice. Ranging from serene landscapes to broad vistas of the city of Paris, Lalanne's prints are a joy to view.”

Thanks to a generous gift in 2018 from Jeffrey M. Villet, author of the catalogue raisonné *The Complete Prints of Maxime Lalanne*, the MFA now holds one of the largest collections of Maxime Lalanne's etchings in the world.

Visitors can learn more about *Defining Lines: The Prints and Drawings of Maxime Lalanne* during “[Virtual Cocktails and Collections](#)” with curator Erin Wilson on March 17 from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm.

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#### **ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG**

The MFA at 255 Beach Drive NE is St. Petersburg's first art museum, and houses the largest encyclopedic art collection in Florida. The collection includes works of art from ancient times to the present day and from around the world, including ancient Greek and Roman, Egyptian, Asian, African, pre-Columbian, European, American, and contemporary art. The photography collection is one of the largest and finest in the Southeast. Kristen A. Shepherd is the Executive Director and CEO. For more information, please visit [mfastpete.org](http://mfastpete.org) and follow @mfastpete on social.

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