

# MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ST. PETE

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG (MFA) ANNOUNCES NEW EXHIBITION  
*TRUE NATURE: RODIN AND THE AGE OF IMPRESSIONISM*

*The MFA's New Exhibition Will Be on View November 12, 2022—March 26, 2023*



**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (August 17, 2022)** – [The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg](#) (MFA) announced today its upcoming exhibition, *True Nature: Rodin and the Age of Impressionism*, which will be on view November 12, 2022—March 26, 2023. This monumental exhibition is the first in the Bay Area to showcase a select survey of Auguste Rodin's best-known sculptures together with other rare masterworks by leading Impressionist painters. The exhibition will fill the MFA's iconic Hazel Hough Wing with dozens of sculptures, paintings, photographs, and works on paper from *fin-de-siècle* Paris.

*True Nature* offers a remarkably comprehensive look at Rodin's hugely influential and revolutionary life as an artist and the rich, rapidly changing world in which he lived. Drawn from the permanent collection of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), the exhibition seeks to reframe the artist and his sculpture, contextualizing his oeuvre within the work of his peers and exploring perceptions about the artist and his significance in the art historical canon.

"This is an incredibly important milestone for The Museum of Fine Arts St. Petersburg," said Stanton Thomas, Senior Curator of Collections and Exhibitions at the MFA. "I am so proud to showcase St. Petersburg's first major exhibition devoted to Rodin and the Impressionists at the MFA. *True Nature* is a transformative exploration of one of the most popular, enduring, and captivating periods in art history,

and I'm excited for the St. Pete community and the Southeast at large to have an opportunity to experience it for themselves."

Encompassing close to 70 artworks, the exhibition features rarely seen 19th-century European sculptures and paintings created by Impressionist artists with whom Rodin worked and exhibited throughout his career. *True Nature* features examples of the artist's most famous works, including his *Saint John the Baptist Preaching* (1878), *Eternal Spring* (c. 1881–1884), and *Jean d'Aire* (1886). In addition, the exhibition includes major Impressionist paintings such as Claude Monet's *In the Woods at Giverny* (1887), Paul Cézanne's *Still Life with Cherries and Peaches* (1885–1887), Edgar Degas' *The Bellelli Sisters* (1865–1866), and Pierre Auguste-Renoir's *Two Girls Reading* (1890–1891). It also includes consummate photographs, drawings, and sculptures by other masters of the period.

Until 1900, Rodin's dramatic approaches to the human figure were best known to the public through his large, public commissions, which received both praise and criticism in the press. While the critics' chief concerns revolved around the unfinished nature of his work, the unrefined surface, and the non-traditional approach to subject matter, his supporters praised the sculptor's relentless quest to capture the lifelike movement and energy of the physical form. The monumental sculptures embodied these qualities, and yet the sculptor's relentless pursuit of form and movement is also evident in his most intimate works.

This exhibition was organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

#### **IMAGE CAPTIONS (L-R)**

Auguste Rodin, *Saint John the Baptist Preaching*, first modelled 1878, this cast 1966 (Musée Rodin 6/12), Bronze, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Gift of B. Gerald Cantor Art Foundation, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA

Claude Monet, *Nymphaeas*, c. 1897–1898, Oil on canvas, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Mrs. Fred Hathaway Bixby Bequest, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA

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#### **ABOUT AUGUSTE RODIN**

Auguste Rodin (1840–1917) is one of the most recognized European sculptors of the 19th century. Images of his work pervade our collective cultural consciousness, and he has been canonized into the narrative of Western art history as the epitome of the tormented, virile, creative genius. Significantly, the myths created around him and perpetuated relentlessly by him helped cement his reputation as the tortured, and ultimately triumphant, maker of art. His artistic output, however, is far more nuanced than this characterization of an artistic genius materializing as a result of his relentless working habits, his publicity, or his flawed relationships with women.

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

The MFA at 255 Beach Drive NE is the largest encyclopedic art museum 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, Native American, European, American, and contemporary art. The photography collection is one of the largest and finest in the Southeast. For more information, please visit [mfastpete.org](http://mfastpete.org) and follow @mfastpete on social media.

**MEDIA CONTACT**

DEPARTMENT PR

Sarah Brown McLeod

[sarah@department-pr.com](mailto:sarah@department-pr.com)

Roberta Zertuche

[roberta@department-pr.com](mailto:roberta@department-pr.com)

**ABOUT LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART (LACMA)**

Located on the Pacific Rim, LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of more than 147,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of artistic expression across the globe. Committed to showcasing a multitude of art histories, LACMA exhibits and interprets works of art from new and unexpected points of view that are informed by the region's rich cultural heritage and diverse population. LACMA's spirit of experimentation is reflected in its work with artists, technologists, and thought leaders as well as in its regional, national, and global partnerships to share collections and programs, create pioneering initiatives, and engage new audiences.