

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ST. PETE

Press Release | For Immediate Release

Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg Bets a Monet on a Tampa Bay Rays World Series Victory

*A friendly wager with the Milwaukee Art Museum
puts a masterpiece loan and museum bragging rights on the line.*



MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

Claude Monet (French, 1840–1926), *Waterloo Bridge, Sunlight Effect*, ca. 1900 (dated 1903). Oil on canvas. Milwaukee Art Museum, Bequest of Mrs. Albert T. Friedmann, M1950.3.



Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg

Claude Monet (French, 1840–1926), *Houses of Parliament: Effect of Fog, London*, 1904. Oil on canvas. 32 1/2 x 36 1/2 in. Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, Partial gift of Charles C. and Margaret Stevenson Henderson and Museum purchase 1979.5

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (Oct. 23, 2026) — The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg (MFA) is showing its support for the Tampa Bay Rays in a big-league way. It's putting a Monet in play.

As the Tampa Bay Rays and the Milwaukee Brewers face off in the World Series, the MFA and the Milwaukee Art Museum have agreed to a friendly wager. Each institution is backing its team with a beloved painting by Claude Monet. The museum on the losing side will send its painting on loan to the winning team's hometown for a victory lap in the galleries.

If the Rays bring home the championship, St. Petersburg will welcome Milwaukee's *Waterloo Bridge, Sunlight Effect*. If the Brewers prevail, the MFA will lend *Houses of Parliament: Effect of Fog, London* to its Wisconsin counterpart.

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A leader of the Impressionist movement and one of the most influential painters of the nineteenth century, Monet transformed how artists depict light and color. The winning city won't just take home a World Series title. Its museum will bring a Monet masterpiece to town, giving the community more world-class art to enjoy.

Kim Sajet, Donna and Donald Baumgartner Director of the Milwaukee Art Museum, initiated the wager. "When I moved to Milwaukee, I became a part of the Brew Crew. They're the best team in baseball, and I'm backing them with one of our most beloved paintings. Two Monets will look incredible in our galleries. Klaudio, consider this your invitation to visit Milwaukee. Go Brewers!"

"We admire Kim's enthusiasm, but we think Milwaukee's Monet would enjoy a little Florida vacation," said Klaudio Rodriguez, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer of the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg. "We're backing the Rays all the way, and we're ready to welcome Milwaukee's masterpiece to St. Petersburg. Let's see Milwaukee put its Monet where its mouth is."

Houses of Parliament: Effect of Fog, London is typically located in the MFA's Collection Gallery, which is temporarily closed until November 21 during the reinstallation for *Art Unbound*. However, the museum has put the piece on view in the upstairs gallery in support of the Rays.

"Although our collection galleries are closed, we wanted to share the Monet during this rivalry. For visiting Brewers fans, it might be their only chance to see it," said Hazel and William Hough Chief Curator Dr. Stanton Thomas.

While high-profile friendly wagers involving artwork are a popular trend among art institutions during championship events, this is a first for the MFA. The wager involves a temporary loan; ownership of each painting will remain with its museum. Loan and exhibition dates will be announced following the series.

Plan your visit at mfastpete.org and follow @MFAStPete for updates on the rivalry.

Media Assets

High-resolution press images are available for [media download here](#).

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About the Milwaukee Art Museum

The Milwaukee Art Museum is an essential destination for art and architecture, and a vital cultural resource that connects visitors to dynamic art experiences and one another. Housed in iconic buildings by Santiago Calatrava, Eero Saarinen, and David Kahler on a 24-acre lakefront campus, the Museum is Wisconsin's largest art institution and home to both broad and deep collections, with exceptional holdings in American painting, sculpture, and decorative arts; global contemporary art, with a strength in minimalist and conceptual art; prints and drawings; European art from the Renaissance through the nineteenth century; photography and new media; modern and contemporary design; folk and self-taught art; and twentieth-century Haitian art. A bold symbol of Milwaukee's ambition and forward-thinking vision, the Museum is a place for community building, education, and celebration that fosters creativity, free speech, and critical discourse for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. For more information, visit mam.org.

About the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg

As the first art museum in St. Petersburg, the Museum of Fine Arts serves as the cultural anchor of a vibrant arts city, uniting a diverse community of artists, residents, and international visitors. The museum's global collection, spanning nearly 5,000 years, acts as a catalyst for connection and conversation. By bridging historical perspectives with contemporary discourse, the museum broadens the artistic canon while elevating the voices and stories of historically marginalized artists. Within the museum's holdings are exemplary works by Georgia O'Keeffe, Claude Monet, Berthe Morisot, Auguste Rodin, Kehinde Wiley, and Élisabeth Vigée-LeBrun. The museum also houses one of the largest and most well-respected photography collections in the Southeast, featuring iconic visionaries such as Ansel Adams, Edward Steichen, Julia Margaret Cameron, Carrie Mae Weems, James Van Der Zee, and Aaron Siskind. Committed to fearless creativity, the museum fosters a welcoming environment where all are empowered to explore untold stories and challenge conventions. For more information, visit mfastpete.org.

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