



## **FRAME FACT SHEET**

FRAME (The French Regional and American Museums Exchange) is a coalition of 18 American and French regional art museums that fosters cooperation in the cultural arena and builds understanding between American and French citizens by organizing major art exhibits and bilateral exchange programs.

A first-of-its-kind, nonprofit organization that is considered a model of cultural diplomacy, FRAME sponsors exchanges of information, personnel, technology, educational programs and resources among its member museums. FRAME projects range from sponsoring joint art exhibits and collection exchanges to a Website based on its member-museums' resources.

FRAME's programs are designed to serve the cultural needs of each country and engage a constituency of vast size, breadth and distribution.

As United States Ambassador to France, Felix G. Rohatyn proposed the creation of a regional cultural program as part of his effort to focus the American Embassy's mission on France's growing urban centers. As a result, Mrs. Elizabeth Rohatyn and Françoise Cachin, former director of the Museums of France, co-founded FRAME in October 1999 with the goal of substantially increasing public access to regional museums in both countries. In 2002, France presented Mrs. Rohatyn with the Legion of Honor in recognition of her work with FRAME and the contribution it makes to U.S./French relations.

French museums that are FRAME partners include: Musée des Beaux-Arts de Bordeaux ; Musée de Grenoble ; Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lille ; Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon; Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rennes ; Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rouen; Musée Fabre de Montpellier ; Musée des Augustins de Toulouse, and Musée des Beaux-Arts de Strasbourg. The American partners are: The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio; Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, Texas; The Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, San Francisco, California.; Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon.; Yale University Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut.; Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts.; The Saint Louis Art Museum, St., Louis, Missouri.; and The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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To plan exchanges and joint exhibits, FRAME convenes regular meetings of directors and curators of its member museums. Each French and American museum director has visited all of the other FRAME museums to enrich his or her knowledge of the partners' collections. In addition, FRAME holds annual meetings with a member-museum hosting the proceedings. FRAME's 1999 inaugural conference was held in Lyon, with subsequent meetings held in St. Louis and Bordeaux. FRAME's 2002 annual meeting was held in October at the Cleveland Museum of Art, and FRAME 2003 was held at the Portland museum of Art.

Because it can draw upon the enormous, combined resources of its members' collections, FRAME is able to organize art exhibits of major importance. Two such exhibits have already toured France. *Made in USA: L'art américain (1908-1943)* traveled to Bordeaux and Rennes in 2001 and Montpellier in 2002; and *Réalités et Métamorphoses: Quatre photographes américains de la côte ouest (Edward Weston, Imogen Cunningham, Minor White and Todd Walker)* was shown in Strasbourg in 2001. *Symboles Sacrés: Quatre mille ans d'art des Amériques* opened at the Musée Fabre de Montpellier on July 16, 2002 and traveled to Rouen, Lyon, Rennes and Minneapolis, where it was presented from October 26 to December 8, 2003.

In the United States, a very important show of drawings, *Raphael and His Age*, opened in August, 2002 in Cleveland. In addition, *Triumph of French Painting: 17<sup>th</sup> Century Masterpieces from the Museums of FRAME* opened on October 11, 2003 in Portland, Ore. It will travel to Birmingham, Ala. From January 25 through April 11, 2004. Several exhibitions of special interest are planned for 2004 and 2005. *Bonjour Monsieur Courbet! The Bruyas Collection from the Musée Fabre, Montpellier* will open in Richmond, VA. on March 27, until June 13, 2004, it will be shown in Williamstown, Ms. from June 27 through September 6 and in Dallas, Tx. from October 16, 2004 to January 2, 2005. It will end its American journey in San Francisco from January 22 through April 3, 2005. This exhibition will include Courbet, Delacroix, Cabanel and Tassaert, *La Rencontre* or *Bonjour Monsieur Courbet*, a universally known painting. Also in 2004-2005, five panels of a magnificent 15<sup>th</sup> Century Flemish polyptic called "*The Master of Embroidered Foliage*", now dispersed between Williamstown, Minneapolis and Lille, will be reunited for the first time. In 2005, the exhibition "*The Prints of Ed Ruscha from San Francisco*" will travel to Strasbourg. In 2006, an exhibition on "Indians" and American landscapes in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, "*Mythologie de l'Ouest*" will travel to Rouen, Toulouse and Rennes and perhaps in the United-States! Finally, *Monet in Normandy* will open in 2006 in San Francisco and Cleveland (winter 2007), presenting works from the collection of the Cleveland Museum of Art, as well as other FRAME museums. FRAME also is planning

significant exhibits on Pictorialism, Gothic sculptures, modern sculptures, and abstract French paintings.

In addition to organizing major exhibitions, FRAME sponsors exchanges of Art among its museums. These thematically organized exchanges of two to five works of art are more affordably and easily organized than large exhibitions and can present masterpieces of art to the publics of FRAME's member museums, on a more regular basis.

In 2003, FRAME launched an education program that supports the collections and exhibitions of its member museums. Organized by educators and curators of FRAME museums, the education program will involve student and teacher exchanges, link art and museum scholarship to French and English language studies and work in partnership with schools and public organizations.

Madame Francine Mariani-Ducray, director of the Museums of France, serves as president of FRAME's administrative council. Madame Bernadette Chirac, First Lady of France, and the Honorable Raymond Barre, former Prime Minister of France and former Mayor of Lyon, serve as honorary co-chairs of FRAME and participate in its meetings and projects.

The Florence Gould Foundation was instrumental in helping FRAME establish itself and develop its activities. The Foundation for French Museums, chaired by Mr. Michel David-Weill, was also a founding partner in FRAME's efforts. In addition, FRAME has received support from a number of foundations, corporations and individuals, including: John & Mary Young, Walter & Ursula Cliff, Daniel & Katoucha Davison, Alice Lobel, Barbara Walters, Constance Goodyear Baron, Mrs. Lewis T. Preston, The Citigroup Foundation, the Leonard & Evelyn Lauder Foundation, Nancy B. Hamon, Michael J. Horvitz, the Annenberg Foundation, The Fox Family Association, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Buchbinder, Emily Rauh Pulitzer, The Boeckman Family Foundation, Steven D. Brooks, Bruce & Carol Calder, Jan Greenberg, S. Roger Horchow, Mr. And Mrs. David Mesker, Mary Cronson, Striblings & Associates Ltd, Emily Summers and the Ginkgo Group.

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