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**PHOENIX ART MUSEUM PRESENTS FIRST EXHIBITION TO EXPLORE
CÉZANNE'S INFLUENCE ON AMERICAN ART**

Largest Assembly of Cézanne Works Ever On View in Arizona, Opens July 1

PHOENIX, AZ (June 9, 2010)—French master Paul Cézanne, one of the most recognizable names in art, is celebrated worldwide for his Post-Impressionist masterpieces. However, Cézanne's greatest legacy may be the transformative effect his work had on 20th century artists. *Cézanne and American Modernism* is the first exhibition to examine Cézanne's influence on American artists working between 1900 and 1930 by bringing together 16 of the French master's paintings and works on papers with more than 80 works by 33 American artists, including Marsden Hartley, Maurice Prendergast, Arshile Gorky, Alfred Stieglitz and Man Ray. The exhibition showcases outstanding works from public and private collections throughout the U.S., including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Art Institute of Chicago, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and works from Phoenix Art Museum's permanent collection. The exhibition opens on July 1, 2010.

Paul Cézanne (1839–1906) is universally acclaimed as the father of modern art for his revolutionary use of flattened perspective, carefully structured compositions and his signature technique of painting with patches of color. *Cézanne and American Modernism* reveals how a small group of pioneering American artists championed the reclusive French artist as he gained international prominence in the years shortly after his death. Although these painters and photographers never met Cézanne in person, his long and prolific career provided many avenues of influence for them to explore.

The transformative impact of Cézanne's painting is vividly illustrated by the American artists' adaptations of his stylistic hallmarks and subjects. Marsden Hartley was introduced to Cézanne's work in 1911, moved to the south of France in 1925 to be closer to the native countryside of his mentor, and produced his own rugged and colorful modern landscapes. Cézanne's powerful images of bathers in the landscape moved several artists, including Max Weber and Arthur B. Davies to pay homage in their compositions of the same topic. The French artist's strong and powerful portraits, which treat sitters as if they were emotionless still lifes, motivated several artists to follow suit, including Stanton Macdonald-Wright who produce an image of his brother in a colorful and confident style that directly relates to a work by Cézanne. John Marin's free-flowing watercolors, like those by Cézanne, are notable for their suggestive power, freshness, and immediacy. Artists Patrick Henry Bruce, Andrew Dasburg, Maurice Prendergast, Charles Demuth and others were inspired by Cézanne's still-life compositions and variously reflect his affinity for vibrant, contrasting colors, titled table tops, multiple views, and complex structures.

Cézanne and American Modernism – add one

Cézanne's influence on early 20th-century American photography is examined for the first time with examples by Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Steichen, Paul Strand, and others who played a pivotal role in introducing modernism to America. Their experimentation included closely cropped portraits, abstract still lifes, and nudes and bathers in landscape settings.

Another surprising aspect of the exhibition is Cézanne's remarkable impact on art in the western United States. Artists Andrew Dasburg, Willard Nash, Józef Bakoś, B.J.O Nordfeldt, and others spent varying lengths of time in the region and merged Cézanne's influence with inspiration from the western landscape and culture. Cézanne also inspired a new generation of younger artists who discovered him for the first time during the 1920s. This includes Arshile Gorky, who created strikingly faithful imitations of Cézanne's work while living in New York. African-American artists William H. Johnson and Hale Woodruff both visited France at this time and embraced aspects of Cézanne's palette and structural style early in their careers.

Exhibition Details

Cézanne and American Modernism is presented by Phoenix Art Museum in the Museum's Steele Gallery July 1 through September 26, 2010. The exhibition is organized by the Montclair Art Museum and The Baltimore Museum of Art and curated in Phoenix by Jerry Smith, curator of American and Western American art.

Entrance to the exhibition is included with general museum admission, which is \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens (65+), \$8 for full-time college students with ID, \$4 for children ages 6-17 and free for children under 6 and for museum members. An audio-guide tour is available for \$2, and free for museum members.

Museum hours are Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Thursday thru Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, Noon – 5:00 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and major holidays.

Catalogue

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue co-published by Yale University Press and The Baltimore Museum of Art. It is co-authored by Montclair Art Museum Chief Curator Dr. Gail Stavitsky and Baltimore Museum of Art Senior Curator of European Painting & Sculpture Katy Rothkopf, and includes an essay entitled "Cezanne and the American West" authored by Phoenix Art Museum curator Jerry Smith. The fully illustrated 376-page catalogue is available at The Museum Store.

Sponsors

This exhibition is made possible by Bank of America.

Additional funding has been provided by The Leir Charitable Foundations, the Terra Foundation for American Art, The Henry Luce Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Thaw Charitable Trust. This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. Travel support for the national tour has been provided by Continental Airlines.

Support is provided by Robert and Joan Cremin, the Herbert H. and Barbara C. Dow Foundation, the Museum's Friends of European Art, Nancy and Lee Hanley, The Ruddock Family Foundation and the Sharron and Delbert R. Lewis Exhibition Endowment Fund.

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Cézanne and American Modernism – add two

About Phoenix Art Museum

Phoenix Art Museum is the Southwest's premier destination for world-class visual arts. Popular international exhibitions are shown along side the Museum's outstanding collection of more than 18,000 works of American, Asian, European, Latin American, Western American, modern and contemporary art, and fashion design. A community epicenter for fifty years, Phoenix Art Museum presents festivals, live performances, independent art films and educational programs that enlighten, entertain and stimulate. Visitors also enjoy PhxArtKids an interactive space for children, vibrant photography exhibitions through the Museum's landmark partnership with the Center for Creative Photography, the lushly landscaped Sculpture Garden, dining at Arcadia Farms at Phoenix Art Museum, and shopping at The Museum Store.

To learn more about Phoenix Art Museum, visit PhxArt.org, or call the 24-hour recorded information line at (602) 257-1222.

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