

Press release
Zurich, 20 October 2011

Kunsthhaus Zürich presents Miró, Monet, Matisse – The Nahmad Collection.

From 21 October 2011 to 15 January 2012 the Kunsthhaus Zürich is staging the first-ever exhibition of masterpieces from the private collection of the Nahmad family. This exclusive world premiere, entitled 'Miró, Monet, Matisse – The Nahmad Collection', will feature more than 100 paintings by Miró, Picasso, Matisse, Kandinsky, Monet, Magritte and many others.

Based in Monaco, the Nahmad family has been collecting great art for two generations, ranging from Impressionism to Surrealism and beyond. With a connoisseur's eye for quality, the art-dealing family has spent decades single-mindedly acquiring paintings and sculptures.

THE WORLD'S FIRST EXHIBITION OF THE PRIVATE COLLECTION

The masterpieces that make up this unique private collection have never before been shown together. Their extraordinary quality caught the public eye when works generously loaned to the Kunsthhaus were displayed as part of the hugely successful 'Picasso' exhibition which closed earlier this year. Indeed Picasso, with a breathtaking selection of work from all phases of his career, is one of the best-represented artists in the Nahmad Collection; but there are also Matisse, Modigliani and Kandinsky, with whole series of brilliant pieces; and Claude Monet, one of the ancestors of the modernist movement, with luminous images of his travels in the south.

THE SELECTION: IMPRESSIONISM, SURREALISM, ABSTRACTION

With a collection numbering several hundred works to choose from, some tough decisions needed to be made. Christoph Becker, Director of the Kunsthhaus Zürich and curator of the exhibition, and Helly Nahmad, have made some surprising choices. Exceptional works by Mark Rothko, Alberto Giacometti and Salvador Dalí have been omitted, and the focus of the selection lies elsewhere. It follows the orthodox canon but with some highly eclectic touches: starting with the late Impressionism of Renoir and Degas at the end of the 19th century it moves on to cover everything from Cubism and Abstraction to Surrealism. Magritte, Léger and Max Ernst are shown side by side with an outstanding group of works by Joan Miró. Monet's 'Canotiers à Argenteuil' (1874), Kandinsky's 'Study for Improvisation 3' and Kazimir Malevich's important 'Suprematist Composition' (1916) have been picked to appear in Zurich. Together with Matisse's 'Portrait au manteau bleu' and Modigliani's portrait of the art dealer

Paul Guillaume, they offer a truly astonishing tour of some great moments in modern art.

LONG AWAITED: PICASSO'S HARLEQUIN WITH FLOWERS

Among the more than 100 works are a number that the family has not parted with for decades. One prominent example is Picasso's charming 'Petit pierrot aux fleurs'. Painted in 1923/24, it was presented by Picasso to the paediatrician who tended his son Paulo – shown wearing a harlequin costume – following an accident. The Nahmads acquired it for their collection in 1988. Out of the public eye for many years, the original of this popular motif can now at last be viewed by a wider audience.

ART EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

The art education service includes both public tours with an expert guide and interactive offerings for all age groups, such as 'Paint your own collection' for adults and 'Wild and fantastic' with rap and poetry for children from 10 years onward.

Background information on the Nahmad collection, illustrations of the works on display as well as full details of the educational offering are available on the exhibition website.

A lavishly illustrated catalogue in German and English is being published by DuMont to accompany the exhibition. It contains essays by art historians Robert Brown, Lukas Gloor, William Paton and Faith Chisholm as well as an interview with Helly Nahmad in which he talks about the family's history and the creation of the collection. The catalogue can be purchased from bookstores or at a discounted price of CHF 45.00 from the Kunsthaus shop.

The exhibition 'Miró, Monet, Matisse – The Nahmad Collection' is supported by Credit Suisse – Partner of the Kunsthaus Zürich. The bank's commitment to culture has a long tradition: it has been supporting the Kunsthaus for no fewer than 20 years.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich

Tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 84, www.kunsthhaus.ch

Open: Sat, Sun, Tues 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed, Thurs, Fri 10 a.m.–8 p.m., closed on Mondays. 24, 26, 31 December 2011 and 1, 2 January 2012: 10 a.m.–6 p.m. 25 December 2011 closed.

Admission including audioguide (English/German/French): CHF 22.00 / 14.50 (concessions). Groups of 20 or more CHF 16.50 per person. Children and young people 16 and under free of charge.

Schools and groups are requested to register in advance.

KUNSTHAUS ZÜRICH

General public tours: Tuesdays 12 midday, Thursdays 3 p.m., Fridays 6 p.m., Sundays 11 a.m. Themed tours (linked to the collection): Wednesdays 6 p.m., Saturdays 3 p.m.

French: Sat 5 November, 11 a.m. English: Sat 19 November, 11 a.m.

Private guided tours for groups of 2 to 20 – at a date of choosing and also in foreign languages – can be booked by calling +41 (0)44 253 84 84 (Mon–Fri 9 a.m. – midday). Prices start from CHF 175.

Advance sales: SBB RailAway combination ticket, with discount on travel and admission: at stations and by phoning Rail Service: 0900 300 300 (CHF 1.19/min. by ground line), www.sbb.ch.

Zürich Tourism: overnight stay incl. entry ticket. Tourist Service at the Main Railway Station, tel. +41 (0)44 215 40 40, hotel@zuerich.com, www.zuerich.com/nahmad.

Ticketcorner: www.ticketcorner.com, 0900 800 800 (CHF 1.19/min.). Fast-track admission.

Magasins Fnac: sales points in Switzerland: Rives, Balexert, Lausanne, Fribourg, Pathé Kino Basel, www.fnac.ch; France: Carrefour, Géant, Magasins U, 0 892 68 36 22 (EUR 0.34/min), www.fnac.com; Belgium: www.fnac.be.

CONTACT FOR THE MEDIA

To download visual material go to: www.kunsthhaus.ch > Information > Press.

For further information, contact:

Kristin Steiner, kristin.steiner@kunsthhaus.ch, tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 13