

Press release
Zurich, 28 March 2011

Kunsthaus Zürich presents The Nahmad Collection.

From 21 October 2011 to 15 January 2012 the Kunsthaus Zürich is staging the first-ever exhibition of masterpieces from the private treasures of the Nahmad family – the Nahmad Collection. This exclusive world premiere will feature some 125 paintings by Picasso, Matisse, Modigliani, Kandinsky, Monet and many others.

Based in Monaco but with members as far away as London and New York, the Nahmad family has been collecting great art for two generations. With a connoisseur's eye for quality, the art-dealing family of Syrian origin has spent decades single-mindedly acquiring paintings and sculptures but also selling them, carrying on a flourishing international business in art while consolidating an impressive collection.

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 Kunsthaus were displayed as part of the recent and hugely successful 'Picasso' exhibition. 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 thousand works to choose from, some tough decisions needed to be made. Helly Nahmad, the family representative in London who was entrusted with the preparations, and Christoph Becker, Director of the Kunsthaus Zürich, have made some surprising initial 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. Originally planned to include around 100 works, the exhibition has now been expanded to 125.

CATALOGUE AND ART EDUCATION

A catalogue is being published by DuMont to accompany the exhibition. It contains pieces by art historians Peter-Klaus Schuster, Robert Brown, William Paton and Faith Chrisholm as well as an interview with Helly Nahmad in which he talks about the family's history and the creation of the collection.

The art education team is preparing a series of public guided tours which will take place almost every day. Appointments for private tours, with a choice of dates and languages, can be booked now.

A contribution to culture by Credit Suisse – Partner of the Kunsthaus Zürich.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich

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

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 (subject to change).

Children and young people 16 and under free of charge.

Schools and groups are requested to register in advance.

Private guided tours can be booked now!

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. 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.kunsthaus.ch > Information > Press.

Press preview: Thursday 20 October 2011, 11 a.m.

For further information, contact:

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