FIRST MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF A CHIEF FORERUNNER OF IMPRESSIONISM, CHARLES FRANÇOIS DAUBIGNY, WILL RE-EXAMINE ORIGINS OF THE MOVEMENT AND FEATURE EXCEPTIONAL WORKS BY DAUBIGNY, MONET, PISSARRO AND VAN GOGH

EXHIBITION OPENS IN FEB. 2016 AT TAFT MUSEUM OF ART, THE EXCLUSIVE U.S. VENUE, BEFORE INTERNATIONAL TOUR

Exhibition: Daubigny, Monet, Van Gogh: Impressions of Landscape
Venue: Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

Significance: The Taft Museum of Art will be the sole U.S. venue to host a groundbreaking international exhibition that revises our understanding of the origins of Impressionism by introducing a relatively overlooked artist, Charles François Daubigny (1817–78). Daubigny anticipated and influenced many of the artists and practices associated with the avant-garde movement. Conceived at the Taft, which owns three paintings by the artist, the exhibition will also feature spectacular loans from numerous North American and European museums—including the Art Institute of Chicago; Montreal Museum of Fine Arts; National Gallery, London; Museum of Fine Arts, Bordeaux; Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh; Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam—and private collections.

A central figure in the development of 19th-century French landscape painting and a key mentor for the Impressionists, Daubigny has never been the subject of a major international exhibition. Through fascinating and often surprising comparisons with Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings by Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro and Vincent Van Gogh, the exhibition will reveal Daubigny’s impact on and importance for generations of artists.
Content: Of the nearly 60 paintings in the exhibition, approximately 40 masterpieces by Daubigny will represent the full range of the artist’s achievements, including his paintings of silvery light and reflections along the Seine and Oise rivers, stormy atmospheric effects at the Normandy coast, and lush fields and orchards in the countryside outside Paris—all of which inspired Monet and Pissarro, whose similarly themed works will also be featured. Daubigny’s panoramic views of the sunny grain-fields near Auvers were admired by Van Gogh, who adopted Daubigny’s then famous double-wide landscape canvases for his own pictures of the plains near Auvers. The final section of the exhibition includes five masterpieces by Van Gogh that reveal his debt to Daubigny.


Organizers: Taft Museum of Art, Scottish National Gallery, Van Gogh Museum

Curators: Lynne Ambrosini, Director of Collections and Exhibitions and Curator of European Art, Taft Museum of Art; Michael Clarke, Director, Scottish National Gallery; Frances Fowle, Senior Curator, Scottish National Gallery; Maite van Dijk, Curator of Paintings, Van Gogh Museum; Nienke Bakker, Curator of Paintings, Van Gogh Museum; René Boitelle, Senior Paintings Conservator, Van Gogh Museum

Credits: Major support provided by Mr. and Mrs. Randolph L. Wadsworth Jr., the National Endowment for the Arts, Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation and The Thomas J. Emory Memorial.

Publication: Daubigny, Monet, Van Gogh: Impressions of Landscape, a fully illustrated catalogue presenting original research by noted scholars in the field, will accompany the exhibition.

About the Taft: Once home to Charles and Anna Taft—President William Howard Taft’s half brother and his wife—the Taft Museum of Art is one of the finest small art museums in the U.S. The museum, which opened to the public in 1932, houses Charles and Anna Taft’s renowned collections of European old master and 19th-century paintings, American art, European sculpture and decorative arts, and Chinese porcelain in a downtown 1820 National Historic Landmark and graceful 2004 addition. The Taft Museum of Art is dedicated to providing captivating, exceptional and accessible
visual experiences with truly great art through its collections, exhibitions and programs. Its special exhibitions are designed to bring the collection to life in dynamic new ways for diverse audiences.

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