



Press release
Exhibition

American Artists and the Louvre

June 14
September 18
2006

Musée du Louvre
Salle de la Chapelle,
et Salon Carré

In an unprecedented partnership, the Musée du Louvre and the Terra Foundation for American Art are collaborating on an exhibition that will explore the roots of the Franco-American artistic exchange and the history of the Louvre as a site for artistic inspiration for generations of American artists. *American Artists and the Louvre (1760-1930)* is the first exhibition of American artists to be shown at the Louvre. The “American season at the Louvre” will feature a summer-long program of complementary symposia, lectures and concerts. In addition, the exhibition will be accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue in both French and English languages.

American Artists and the Louvre will present major paintings which will be displayed in two galleries of the Louvre : La Chapelle, which is a dedicated space for special exhibitions, and the Salon Carré, one of the most visited spaces in the museum.

Exhibition curators

Olivier Meslay, Curator Department of Paintings, Musée du Louvre, and Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy, Curator of Collection, Terra Foundation for American Art

Samuel F. B. Morse
(1791-1872)
Gallery of the Louvre, 1831—1833
Terra Foundation for American Art,
Chicago



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Catalogue :

American Artists and the Louvre, 1760-1930

Coédition

musée du Louvre Éditions/Hazan,
French and English

Visitor information**Location**

**Musée du Louvre - Sully Wing,
1st floor, Salle de la Chapelle.**

Hours : Open daily except Tuesdays
from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and until
9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fri-
days

Further information :

+33 (0)1 40 20 53 17 - www.louvre.fr

Admission fees :

**Access to the exhibition is included
in the purchase of an admission
to the Museum's permanent**

collections: 8.50; 6 after 6 p.
m. on Wednesdays and Fridays; free
admission for all visitors the first
Sunday of each month, and for
youths under 26 after 6 p.m. on Fri-
days; free admission at all times for
youths under 18, the unemployed,
and holders of the "Louvre Jeunes",
"Louvre Pro-fessionnels",
"Louvre Enseignants",
"Louvre Etudiants Partenaires" or
"Amis du Louvre" cards.

Free admission at all times for
youths under 18.

American Artists and the Louvre will comprise a two-part consideration of the impact of decades of American artists and their relationship to the Louvre. Samuel F. B. Morse in **The Gallery of the Louvre** (1831–33) chose the Salon Carré to venerate Europe's premier art museum and its collection of old masters as the cultural talisman for American artists. Morse's tour de force of artistic pedagogy will be returned to the Salon Carré after 175 years, where it will be seen in the surrounding that inspired its creation.

Part II of **American Artists and the Louvre** will be shown in La Chapelle gallery. Olivier Meslay studies the earliest generations of American artists in France in **The Foundations of an Exchange, 1760–1860**. Through examples of work by such artists as Benjamin West, John Vanderlyn, and Thomas Cole, this section of the exhibition will demonstrate that artistic ties between the United States and France have a long and deep history.

Elisabeth Kennedy considers the significance of the Louvre as the unofficial American academy in **American Artists and the Louvre, 1800-1914: An Enduring Legacy**. This section of the exhibition illustrates the sustained importance of the artist's sensory experience while visiting the Louvre's galleries and mining the lessons its incomparable collection through prominent examples of such influential American masters and art teachers as James McNeill Whistler, Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer, Henry Ossawa Tanner, William Merritt Chase, Robert Henri, Thomas Hart Benton, and Edward Hopper.

Related events:

A concert by the Orchestre National de France, conducted by Kurt Masur (Symphony n° 9, *New World Symphony*, by Dvorak), will be held under the Louvre Pyramid the evening of June 21st during Paris' celebrated Music Festival.

At the Louvre auditorium :

June, 19

A reading of texts by Edgar Allan Poe, translated by Baudelaire and Mallarmé, and read by actors.

With the Poetry Foundation
(Chicago, Illinois)

Two seminars :

June, 16

- *Arts and Sciences in the New World, Exchanges between France and the United States*.

In collaboration with the Terra Foundation for American Art
(Chicago, Illinois)

September, 15

- *Urban Sculpture Gardens in France and the United States*.
With the Nasher Sculpture Center
(Dallas, Texas)

A conference presenting the exhibition by its two curators, Olivier Meslay and Elisabeth Kennedy.