

**Gauguin and the Impressionists: Masterpieces from the Ordrupgaard Collection****7 August – 18 October 2020****The Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler Galleries**

*Gauguin and the Impressionists: Masterpieces from the Ordrupgaard Collection* showcases 60 works drawn from one of the finest collections of Impressionist paintings in northern Europe, assembled in the first decades of the twentieth century by wealthy Danish couple Wilhelm and Henny Hansen. The exhibition includes masterpieces by Edgar Degas, Edouard Manet, Claude Monet, Berthe Morisot, Camille Pissarro, Auguste Renoir and Alfred Sisley. It also features precursors of Impressionism such as Camille Corot, Gustave Courbet, Jules Dupré and Charles-François Daubigny, and a number of Post-Impressionist works including an exceptional group of eight paintings by Paul Gauguin. Many of the works in the collection have never been seen in the UK before.

Wilhelm Hansen was an insurance magnate who created a collection of French paintings between 1916 and the late 1920s. The First World War, during which Denmark remained neutral, gave Hansen the opportunity to buy important works from the most prestigious Parisian galleries including the Galerie Durand-Ruel and the Galerie Bernheim-Jeune. Hansen was already a keen collector of Danish nineteenth-century painting but decided to acquire the best French painting from 'Corot to Cézanne', enlisting the help of French art critic and early champion of Impressionism Théodore Duret. The Hansens displayed their collection at Ordrupgaard, their house just outside Copenhagen, which they opened to the public in 1918. By then, their collection spanned French painting from Eugène Delacroix to Paul Cézanne and was recognised by a critic as 'perhaps one of the richest and most complete collections' of nineteenth-century French painting outside France. In 1951 Hansen's widow, Henny, bequeathed their home and collection to the Danish state, which turned it into a museum in 1953. This exhibition is a unique opportunity to view these works in the UK while Ordrupgaard is closed for the construction of a new wing.

The exhibition opens with *En Plein Air* featuring landscapes, seascapes and cityscapes mostly painted in and around Paris, the Normandy coast and London, showing how the Impressionists broke away from the classical Italianate landscapes. Included are paintings of the forest of Fontainebleau where, in the 1860s, a new generation of painters such as Monet, Sisley and Renoir, went to paint en plein air. There are also three works by Pissarro representing the landscape around his home in Eragny, as well as Sisley's scenes of the banks of the Seine. This section ends with a group of cityscapes of London and Paris by Monet and Pissarro who were inspired by the light and atmosphere of these modern cities.

*Collecting French Masters* features works by predecessors of Impressionism. Advised by Duret, Hansen acquired paintings by important earlier nineteenth-century painters including Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, Delacroix, Corot and Courbet. This gallery partially reproduces one of Hansen's original hangs based on archival photographs. Most of the works are featured but he was forced to sell part of his collection when the Danish Landmandsbank collapsed in 1922. Key early works

include Delacroix's portrait *George Sand*, 1838; Courbet's *The Ruse, Roe Deer Hunting Episode (Franche-Comté 1866)*, 1866; and eight works by Corot, among them *The Windmill*, c. 1835-40.

*Impressionist Women* shows portraits of women painted by Renoir and Degas as well as Morisot and Eva Gonzalès. In the late 1910s, the Hansens acquired paintings by Morisot and Gonzalès, whose work was less widely recognised, despite their important place within the movement. The works show intimate and domestic scenes which reflect the constraints they faced as women artists at the time. Key portraits include Morisot's *Young Girl on the Grass, the Red Bodice (Mademoiselle Isabelle Lambert)*, 1885, Gonzalès's *The Convalescent (Portrait of a Woman in White)*, 1877-78 and Renoir's *Portrait of a Romanian Lady (Madame Iscovesco)*, 1877.

The exhibition ends with *Gauguin and Post-Impressionism* presenting works by artists who, at the turn of the century, reacted against Impressionism: Gauguin, Cézanne and Henri Matisse. Gauguin is one of the best represented artists in the collection and on display are eight of his paintings spanning his career including *Blue Trees. Your Turn Will come, My Beauty!*, 1888 and *Portrait of a Young Girl (Vaïte 'Jeanne' Goupil)*, 1896. Also included are Cézanne's *Women Bathing*, c. 1895, and Matisse's *Flowers and Fruits*, 1909.

### **Organisation**

The exhibition is organised by Ordrupgaard, Copenhagen and the Royal Academy of Arts, London. It is curated by Anna Ferrari, Curator at the Royal Academy of Arts.

### **Catalogue**

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue with essays by Anna Ferrari and Anne-Birgitte Fonsmark, Director of Ordrupgaard.

### **Dates and Opening Hours**

Open to public:       Friday 7 August – Sunday 18 October 2020  
                                  11am – 5pm daily (last admission 4.30pm)  
                                  Wednesdays to Sundays only

### **Admission**

Full price £17 (£15 excluding Gift Aid donation); concessions available; under 16s go free ([T&Cs apply](#)); Friends of the RA go free.

### **Tickets**

Advance booking is essential for everyone, including Friends of the RA. All visitors must have a pre-booked timed exhibition ticket to enter the building. Tickets will not be available to purchase on site. Tickets can be booked in advance online ([royalacademy.org.uk](http://royalacademy.org.uk)) or over the phone (0207 300 8090).

### **Images**

Publicity images for *Gauguin and the Impressionists: Masterpieces from the Ordrupgaard Collection* can be downloaded via this [link](#). By downloading the images, you acknowledge and accept the terms and conditions found within the link. These images can only be reproduced to illustrate a review or criticism of a work or report as defined by section 30 (i) and (ii) of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

### **Additional visiting information**

Léon Spilliaert will reopen to the public from Wednesday 5 August – Sunday 20 September 2020. Opening times: Wednesdays to Sundays, 11am – 5pm. Advance booking is essential.

From Wednesday 5 August 2020, visitors will be able to visit certain areas of the RA for free, with selected displays including The Collection Gallery, café facilities and areas of the RA Shops. Advance booking is essential. Wednesdays to Sundays, 11am – 5pm only. For further information please visit: [royalacademy.org.uk/plan-your-visit](https://royalacademy.org.uk/plan-your-visit)

### **Safety measures**

The health and safety of visitors and staff is paramount. New safety measures for visitors can be found on the RA website: [royalacademy.org.uk/visiting-and-safety-during-coronavirus](https://royalacademy.org.uk/visiting-and-safety-during-coronavirus).

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### **About Ordrupgaard**

Museum for French Impressionism and Danish Golden Age. Exclusive collection including masterpieces by Monet, Gauguin, Degas and Hammershøi. International special exhibitions and Art Park of contemporary art. [www.ordrupgaard.dk](http://www.ordrupgaard.dk)

### **About the Royal Academy of Arts**

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