

Kimbell Art Museum

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News Release

ADVANCE EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

CURRENT AS OF JANUARY 1998. PLEASE CALL (817) 332-8451, EXT. 241,
TO CONFIRM INFORMATION.

Hidden Treasures from Tervuren: Masterpieces from the Royal Museum for

Central Africa, Belgium

Through January 25, 1998

For the Imperial Court: Qing Porcelain from the Percival David Foundation of

Chinese Art

Extended through March 11, 1998

Renoir's Portraits: Impressions of an Age

February 8–April 26, 1998

The Art of Ornament: Designs for the Bass Performance Hall

April 12–May 31, 1998

Ancient Gold: The Wealth of the Thracians

Treasures from the Republic of Bulgaria

May 3–July 19, 1998

King of the World: A Mughal Manuscript from the Royal Library,

Windsor Castle

May 31–August 23, 1998

Modernism: The Art of Design 1880–1940

The Norwest Collection

June 21–September 13, 1998

Gifts of the Nile: Ancient Egyptian Faience

January 31–April 25, 1999

Matisse and Picasso: A Gentle Rivalry

February 2–May 2, 1999

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Hidden Treasures from Tervuren: Masterpieces from the Royal Museum for Central Africa, Belgium

Through January 25, 1998

This exhibition unveils 125 treasures from Belgium's Royal Museum for Central Africa, commonly known as the Tervuren Museum, which houses the world's richest and most famous ethnographic collections from central Africa. The Tervuren Museum is celebrated not only for the outstanding wealth of its encyclopedic collections but for the venerable age of its more than 250,000 objects, most dating from 1890 to 1940. These masks, statues, figurines, and carvings—many of which have never been shown before—represent some of the highlights of central African art.

The coordinator of this international traveling exhibition, which continues at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco (February 21–April 19, 1998), is the Tribal Art Centre in Basel, Switzerland.

Promotional support of the exhibition in Texas is provided by Norwest Banks.

Accompanied by a catalogue.

For the Imperial Court: Qing Porcelain from the Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art

Extended through March 11, 1998

The exhibition features 65 works drawn from the Percival David Foundation's renowned collections of Chinese ceramics at the University of London, many of which have never been exhibited outside the United Kingdom. This is the first exhibition focusing on the Foundation's 17th- and 18th-century Qing-dynasty porcelains to travel to the United States. A diverse group of wares provides unique insights into the customs of everyday life of the imperial court and the Qing elite.

The exhibition is organized by the Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art and The American Federation of Arts. It is supported in part by a grant from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. Additional support has been provided by the Benefactors Circle of the AFA.

The international tour continues at the Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach, Florida (March 20–April 19); The Frick Art Museum in Pittsburgh (May 3–July 24); and at the Collections Baur, Geneva, Switzerland (September 24–November 22).

Accompanied by a catalogue.

Renoir's Portraits: Impressions of an Age

February 8–April 26, 1998

The first major exhibition devoted solely to the remarkable portraits created by French Impressionist painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841–1919), *Renoir's Portraits* literally puts a “face” on the world of the Impressionists, and features some of Renoir’s most celebrated and beloved works. The portraits painted by Renoir span his entire career and capture both the exuberant ambiance of late-19th century Paris and the warm intimacy of the artist’s wide circle of family, friends, and acquaintances. *Renoir's Portraits* presents a diverse selection of some 60 of the artist’s most compelling works, assembled from public and private collections around the world. The wide variety of people Renoir painted is represented: his earliest artist friends, who would become the Impressionists; the cosmopolitan clients who sought him out in the early 1880s and again at the end of his career; and his wife and children.

Renoir's Portraits: Impressions of an Age has been organized by the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, in collaboration with The Art Institute of Chicago and the Kimbell Art Museum, its final venue. The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue by Colin B. Bailey, chief curator at the National Gallery of Canada, with essays by Linda Nochlin and Anne Distel. It is published by Yale University Press in association with the National Gallery of Canada.

Promotional support of the exhibition is provided by American Airlines; Chase Private Bank of Texas; La Madeleine French Bakery and Café; PrimeCo Personal Communications; Star-Telegram; and WFAA-TV, Channel 8.

The Art of Ornament: Designs for the Bass Performance Hall

April 12–May 31, 1998

To celebrate the opening of the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth, this exhibition presents studies executed by Fort Worth artists Stuart and Scott Gentling for the design program of the hall. A selection of preparatory sketches, drawings, watercolors, and three-dimensional models reveal the evolution of the various artistic motifs for the designs of the proscenium, the Great Dome of the Founders Concert Theater, the end walls of the theater, and the pair of domes crowning the East and West Grand Foyers of the entrance hall. The exhibition also features three small maquettes and two eight-foot-high working models of the angels that adorn the exterior of the hall, sculpted in limestone by Marton Varo.

Ancient Gold: The Wealth of the Thracians
Treasures from the Republic of Bulgaria

May 3–July 19, 1998

This exhibition includes a spectacular array of more than 200 gold and silver vessels, rings, necklaces, ornaments, and weapons that date from the fifth millennium B.C. through the third century A.D.—roughly contemporary with Mycenaean Greece through the time of Alexander the Great—and represent 15 different hoards from ancient royal Thracian tombs. *Ancient Gold: The Wealth of the Thracians* is the first exhibition organized between American museums and Bulgaria since its break from Communism in 1989, and it will acquaint visitors with the little-known culture of one of the most numerous peoples of antiquity.

The exhibition is organized by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria and The Trust for Museum Exhibitions, a not-for-profit museum service organization based in Washington, D.C.

The exhibition tour begins at the Saint Louis Art Museum (February 6–April 12, 1998) and will continue in Fort Worth, San Francisco, New Orleans, Memphis, Boston, Detroit, and Washington D.C.

A fully illustrated catalogue by guest curator Ivan Marazov of the University of Sofia, former minister of culture of Bulgaria, is published by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., in association with The Trust for Museum Exhibitions.

King of the World: A Mughal Manuscript from the Royal Library, Windsor Castle

May 31–August 23, 1998

As part of the international observance of the 50th anniversary of the independence of India and Pakistan, one of the world's greatest illuminated manuscripts has been sent to the United States from the Royal Library, Windsor Castle, by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The *Padshahnama* ("Chronicle of the King of the World") records the first decade of the splendid reign of 17th-century Mughal Emperor Shah-Jahan of India, builder of the Taj Mahal and the great forts of Agra and Delhi. The exhibition, which provides an unrivaled opportunity to understand the peoples and ceremonies that enlivened those spaces, is the first public presentation of all 46 illustrations from one of the finest surviving Mughal painted books. Only a few of the images have ever been published, and up until a recent restoration, when the book was unbound, only two pages could be shown at Windsor Castle at one time.

King of the World: A Mughal Manuscript from the Royal Library, Windsor Castle is organized by the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, in conjunction with the Royal Library, Windsor Castle.

The exhibition is on view at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, through February 8, before continuing its tour at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (February 26–May 17), the Kimbell Art Museum, and its final venue, the Indianapolis Museum of Art (September 6–November 29).

A catalogue by exhibition organizer Milo C. Beach, director of the Sackler Gallery and Freer Gallery of Art, accompanies the exhibition.

The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

Modernism: The Art of Design 1880–1940

The Norwest Collection

June 21–September 13, 1998

The disparate but connected movements brought together in *Modernism: The Art of Design*—the Arts and Crafts movement in England and America, Art Nouveau, the Wiener Werkstätte, De Stijl, the Bauhaus, and Art Deco—are represented by a remarkable body of innovative artist-designers who produced the quintessential elements of modernist design. The works included, which span the years 1880 to 1940, constitute some of their most original, classic, and characteristic creations. In this exhibition, marking ten years of astute collecting in a rich but neglected field of art, some 200 visually stimulating objects from the Norwest collection will be seen together for the first time. Since its founding, in 1987, the collection has been shown only in rotating exhibitions, a few examples at a time, in the Norwest Center in Minneapolis, designed by architect Cesar Pelli & Associates.

The exhibition will appear exclusively at the Kimbell Art Museum and will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue of the Norwest collection by the leading expert on the period, Alastair Duncan. The book will be published this spring by Antique Collectors' Club.

Gifts of the Nile: Ancient Egyptian Faience

January 31–April 25, 1999

This exhibition brings together more than 100 prime examples of ancient Egyptian faience from collections around the world. Faience was antiquity's porcelain. It could be molded, thrown on a wheel, or modeled. Everything from divine statues to jewelry to wine chalices was made from it. Faience could be brilliantly colored in a vast array of hues, and brightly glazed—hence its ancient Egyptian name, which means “brilliant” or “dazzling.” A great deal of new scientific analysis, completed for this exhibition, will be presented.

The exhibition is organized by the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design,

with major support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Gifts of the Nile premieres at The Cleveland Museum of Art (May 10–July 5, 1998) before traveling to the Rhode Island School of Design (August 24, 1998–January 3, 1999) and to the Kimbell Art Museum, its final venue.

Accompanied by a catalogue.

Matisse and Picasso: A Gentle Rivalry

February 2–May 2, 1999

The Kimbell Art Museum, with the support of museums and private collections worldwide, is planning this important exhibition, to be held exclusively in Fort Worth. Guest-curated by the distinguished Matisse and Picasso scholar Yve-Alain Bois, Joseph Pulitzer Jr. Professor of Modern Art at Harvard University, the exhibition will explore the artistic dialogue that took place between the two greatest masters of the 20th century from 1930 until shortly after Matisse's death in 1954. The exhibition proposes to present for the first time several key, visually compelling "rapprochements" of the works of the two artists, providing an understanding of the animated artistic exchange in this period of their careers.

Matisse and Picasso: A Gentle Rivalry will be accompanied by a critical monograph on the subject by Yve-Alain Bois, which promises to advance knowledge significantly about both artists; it will also include a revised chronology developed in collaboration with Anne Baldassari, curator of the Musée Picasso in Paris, and will be published by Flammarion. In addition, to facilitate broad access to the exhibition, there will be an international symposium on the occasion of its inauguration, which will feature many of the leading Matisse and Picasso scholars from around the world.

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Kimbell Art Museum hours: Tuesday–Thursday 10:00–5:00; Friday 12:00–8:00; Saturday 10:00–5:00; Sunday 12:00–5:00.

Extended Renoir hours (February 8–April 26, 1998): Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday 10:00–6:00; Thursday and Friday 10:00–8:00.

Closed Mondays, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Year's Day

For further information, call the Public Affairs Office, (817) 332-8451, ext. 241.
Telefax (817) 877-1264.

For general public information: (817) 332-8451. **Web site:** <http://www.kimbellart.org>