

**STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF
THE LOUVRE ABU DHABI MUSEUM OPENING DATE**

Paris/Abu Dhabi – 6 September 2017

French Ministry of Culture and Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA Abu Dhabi) announced today that Louvre Abu Dhabi will open its doors to the public on 11 November 2017.

Upon this announcement, Françoise Nyssen, French Minister of Culture and Communication, declared: *“The opening of the Louvre Abu Dhabi on 11 November 2017 will be a milestone in the development of the cooperation between the United Arab Emirates and France, ten years after the signature of the intergovernmental agreement. This museum is one of the most ambitious cultural projects in the world, brought to light by Jean Nouvel’s exceptional architectural masterpiece. With the expertise of its cultural institutions and loans from its national collections, France is particularly proud to play a significant role in the completion and the life of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, and so for several decades to come.*

Endowed with an innovative scientific and cultural project combining the expertise of 13 French museums and institutions steered by the Agence France-Muséums, the Louvre Abu Dhabi will indeed offer visitors a unique experience: a brand new journey through major works of art from different civilisations, mirrored to reveal our common humanity. The Louvre Abu Dhabi therefore carries a message of tolerance and peace and stresses the unwavering commitment of our two countries to promote culture and education as a shield against extremism.

The inauguration week will also feature two prestigious events coproduced under the French-Emirati Cultural Programme, that was initiated over a year ago by our two countries and supported by the creative momentum generated by the Louvre Abu Dhabi. I have the hope that the Louvre Abu Dhabi will always bring this energy further, inspire new callings, promote mutual understanding, and always reinforce the strong bonds uniting the United Arab Emirates and France.”

AFM, founded in order to implement France’s commitments relating to the Louvre Abu Dhabi universal museum project and to structure the expertise of the associated French cultural institutions according to the intergovernmental agreement signed by France and the United Arab Emirates on March 6th 2007, is pleased with this decision. Its president, Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière, said : *“The announcement about the Louvre Abu Dhabi opening date crowns the success of the work accomplished by AFM over a decade. Ten years of an unprecedented work by its ambition, by the unique expertise of cultural institutions united by AFM around the Louvre museum, and by the excellence and commitment of its teams. AFM managed to translate France’s ambition in terms of excellence and cultural expertise influence, but also its capacity to innovate at the highest level of international relations. Pioneer and now exemplary, AFM stands as a fantastic tool for recognition and valuation of the French museum expertise*

abroad and of our capacity to establish and grow productive partnerships between several best in class French cultural institutions.”

Jean-Luc Martinez, President-director of the Louvre museum and Chairman of the scientific Board of Agence France-Muséums, who was also in Abu Dhabi for the announcement said: *“This joint announcement honours the completion of a magnificent project with which the Louvre is proud to have associated its name and to claim the spirit of it: the creation of the first universal museum in the Arab World. I am delighted to see that we are entering the final phase of a project with a spirit of openness perfectly aligned with the true nature of the Louvre: I wish that, out of the Saadiyat Island, it will be carrying out this inspiring world awareness mission to the future generations.”*

TCA also announced the first temporary exhibition of the museum. The Intergovernmental Agreement states that Agence France-Muséums shall organize four temporary exhibitions a year at the Louvre Abu Dhabi over fifteen years. Curators of the inaugural exhibition *“From One Louvre to Another : opening a museum for everyone”* will be Jean-Luc Martinez, President-Director of the Louvre museum, and Juliette Trey, curator at the Prints and Drawings Department of the Louvre museum. It will open on 21 December 2017.

About Agence France-Muséums (AFM)

Agence France-Muséums has been entrusted with the task of carrying through the commitments of France to the project of the universal museum of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, and of structuring the expertise of the French cultural institutions involved. It provides assistance and expertise to the authorities of the United Arab Emirates in the following areas: definition of the scientific and cultural programme, assistance in project management for architecture including museography, signage and multimedia projects, coordination of the loans from French collections and organization of temporary exhibitions, guidance with the creation of a permanent collection, and support with the museum’s policy on visitors.

Chaired since its creation by Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, it brings together the Louvre Abu Dhabi partner institutions: the musée du Louvre, the Centre Pompidou, the musée d’Orsay and musée de l’Orangerie, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the musée du quai Branly, the Réunion des Musées Nationaux et du Grand Palais (RMNGP), the Château de Versailles, the musée national des arts asiatiques-Guimet, the musée de Cluny, the École du Louvre, the musée Rodin, the Domaine National de Chambord, the musée des Arts Décoratifs de Paris, the Cité de la Céramique – Sèvres & Limoges, the musée d’Archéologie nationale – Saint-Germain en Laye, the Château de Fontainebleau, and OPPIC (Opérateur du patrimoine et des projets immobiliers de la culture). Jean-Luc Martinez chairs the Scientific Council of AFM.

About Louvre Abu Dhabi

Louvre Abu Dhabi will be a universal museum on Saadiyat Island that translates the exchange of cultures through art works from ancient to contemporary times. Designed by architect Jean Nouvel, the museum represents an Arab madina (city) with its 23 permanent galleries, temporary exhibition space, Children’s Museum, auditorium, restaurants, retail and a research centre. Visitors will be able to walk the promenades beneath the museum’s iconic dome and overlooking the sea, experiencing the museum’s enchanting ‘rain of light’ inspired

by the shadows of overlapping palm trees in the UAE's precious oases where travellers once crossed paths.

Art works displayed originate from civilisations all over the world highlighting universal themes and similar influences (rather than segregated by civilisations like in most Western museums) such as the portrayal of power by rulers, representing the divine, exploring unknown lands and the dawn of globalisation. Louvre Abu Dhabi has acquired more than 620 objects to date including series and collections, some of which will be exhibited with 300 loaned works from 13 leading French institutions.

Born of an intergovernmental agreement between the Government of Abu Dhabi and France in 2007, the name of Louvre is loaned for a period of 30 years, art works from French institutions for 10 years on a decreasing basis as the permanent collection grows and the programming of temporary exhibitions for 15 years.

About TCA (Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority)

Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority conserves and promotes the heritage and culture of Abu Dhabi emirate and leverages them in the development of a world-class, sustainable destination of distinction, which enriches the lives of visitors and residents alike. The authority manages the emirate's tourism sector and markets the destination internationally through a wide range of activities aimed at attracting visitors and investment. Its policies, plans and programmes relate to the preservation of heritage and culture, including protecting archaeological and historical sites and to developing museums, including the Louvre Abu Dhabi, Zayed National Museum and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. TCA Abu Dhabi supports intellectual and artistic activities and cultural events to nurture a rich cultural environment and honour the emirate's heritage. A key authority role is to create synergy in the destination's development through close co-ordination with its wide-ranging stakeholder base.

About the Louvre

The Louvre in Paris opened in 1793, after the French Revolution, and from the very beginning was intended to provide inspiration for contemporary art. Courbet, Picasso, Dalí and so many others came to its hallowed halls to admire the old masters, copy them, immerse themselves in masterpieces and improve and fuel their own art. As an ancient royal residence, the Louvre is inextricably linked to eight centuries of French history. As a universal museum, its collections, among the best in the world, span many millennia and miles, from the Americas to Asia. Over 38,000 artworks are grouped into eight curatorial departments, including universally-admired works such as the Mona Lisa, the Winged Victory of Samothrace and the Venus de Milo. With over 7.4 million visitors in 2016, the Louvre ranks as one of the world's most visited museums.

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