

Press Release

Fourth Louvre Abu Dhabi: Talking Art Series This October

Talk will open with discussion on Leonardo Da Vinci's 'La Belle Ferronnière', one of the Masterpieces that will be exhibited in Louvre Abu Dhabi



Leonardo da Vinci (1452 – 1519), *Woman portrait, called "La Belle Ferronnière"*

Italy, Milano, 1495-1499

63,0 x 45,0 cm (90,0 x 72,0 cm with frame)

Oil on wood

Musée du Louvre, Peintures

Abu Dhabi, UAE 12 October 2014: Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA Abu Dhabi) announced that *Louvre Abu Dhabi: Talking Art Series IV*, will commence again in October (until May 2015) exploring some of the key narratives, ideas and content behind the upcoming museum, before its completion next year.

HE Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA Abu Dhabi) said: “These talks embody the spirit of Louvre Abu Dhabi, the museum’s commitment to education, and its multicultural fabric. With a rare look at some of the artworks that will make up the museum’s permanent collection and future loans, *Louvre Abu Dhabi: Talking Art Series IV* will allow audiences to see the universal concept of the museum come to life.”

The first talk entitled *Leonardo Da Vinci comes to Abu Dhabi*, will discuss Leonardo Da Vinci’s *La Belle Ferronnière*, one of the masterpieces of the musée du Louvre that will be on loan from France when the museum opens in 2015. It is part of a significant loan agreement with a group of leading French institutions and will be the first work by Leonardo Da Vinci ever to be exhibited in the Gulf. This will also mark the first occasion that *La Belle Ferronnière*, also known as *Portrait of an Unknown Woman*, has ever travelled outside of Europe.

The second talk, led by Louvre Abu Dhabi’s architect Jean Nouvel, will explore the contemporary concept of museums as a space for new experiences and interaction. The third talk provides a closer look at some of the art work that will be a part of Louvre Abu Dhabi’s own collection and will discuss the interrelationship between art and film, as the great film-maker James Ivory gives a behind-the-scenes look at his extensive collection of Indian miniature paintings, the majority of which have been acquired by Louvre Abu Dhabi.

The fourth talk will investigate the importance of light as a symbol in universal religions and philosophies often associated with prophecies and spirituality. The fifth and final talk will feature cultural experts Jean-Hubert Martin and Saied Binkrad and will discuss the concept of art as a witness of today’s globalized world. The series will give the UAE public a deeper understanding of Louvre Abu Dhabi’s 21st century interpretation of the universal narrative, a new perspective based on the cultural similarities that unite different civilizations.

Originating from an intergovernmental agreement between the Abu Dhabi government and France in 2007, Louvre Abu Dhabi is a universal museum designed to house aesthetic expressions of different civilisations and cultures from the most ancient to the most contemporary. Progress of Louvre Abu Dhabi continues with the recent success of the *Birth of Museum* exhibition that concluded in Paris in August, which showcased over 160 artworks that highlighted Louvre Abu Dhabi’s permanent collection outside Abu Dhabi for the first time. In addition, a one to one mockup of one of the museums’ galleries has been completed, and the iconic dome, technical masterpiece, is almost complete.

Presented at Manarat Al Saadiyat located in the Saadiyat Cultural District in Abu Dhabi, the seats available throughout the *Louvre Abu Dhabi: Talking Art Series IV* will be limited. Please book in advance at www.saadiyatculturaldistrict.ae or call +971 (0) 2 657 5800.

ENDS

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PRESS CONTACTS

Edelman PR:

Contact:

Mitra Birgani
Communications Officer
mbirgani@tcaabudhabi.ae

NOTES TO EDITORS

The lectures will take place in Manarat al Saadiyat as follows:

- 15 October 2014 – *Leonardo Da Vinci In Abu Dhabi**
- 5 November 2014 – *Museums as Sites for New Experiences*
- 28 January 2015 – *James Ivory Talks: Miniature Paintings and Films*
- 25 March 2015 – *Light and Religion*
- 27 May 2015 – *Art as witness of Globalisation*

* Painted circa 1495 *La Belle Ferronnière* was completed during Leonardo Da Vinci's time as a court artist in Milan. Also known as *Portrait of an Unknown Woman*, the identity of the young woman depicted remains enigmatic. Different theories are discussed by specialists: *La Belle Ferronnière*, could depict Beatrice d'Este, the wife of Da Vinci's then patron Ludovico Sforza, Elisabetta Gonzaga or the Duchess of Mantova. It is thought today that is Lucrezia Crivelli who is portrayed. It is a superb example of the artist's exploration of beauty and divine geometry. *La Belle Ferronnière*, part of The Louvre's permanent collection in Paris has also been exhibited in The National Gallery in London.

ABOUT ABU DHABI TOURISM & CULTURE AUTHORITY (TCA Abu Dhabi)

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 LOUVRE ABU DHABI

Born of an intergovernmental agreement between the Abu Dhabi government and France in 2007, Louvre Abu Dhabi has the vocation to be the first Universal museum in the Arab World translating the spirit of openness and dialogue of cultures. Linking Abu Dhabi with the name of the Louvre, Louvre Abu Dhabi designed by Pritzker-prize winning architect [Jean Nouvel](#), will display works of historical, cultural and sociological significance from the most ancient to the most contemporary. Spanning millennia, the artworks on display will originate from civilisations all over the world. The originality of the museum narrative trail resides in presenting these civilisations in the same spaces, galleries, rooms or gallery cabinet. Universal themes and common influences will be highlighted to illustrate similarities and exchanges arising from shared human experience transcending geography, nationality and history. Louvre Abu Dhabi is set to open in 2015.

ABOUT LOUVRE ABU DHABI TALKING ART PROGRAMME

The *Talking Art* programme is a series of public discussions to engage the local audience with each of the forthcoming museums in the Saadiyat Cultural District, where representatives from the curatorial departments of each of the partner institutions join other expert panellists to deeply explore topics pertaining to the growing collections and museum developments.

The *Louvre Abu Dhabi Talking Art Series* was launched as a platform for the *Talking Art programme* to discuss the museum collection through its cultural programme and aims to explore the significance of individual works both in art historical terms and in

the context of the museum's growing collection. Organised jointly by Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority, Agency France-Muséums and the École du Louvre, the series engages with the heart of the museum and the concepts of discovery, convergence and education that are deeply rooted in its identity. The first series launched in September 2011 and has taken place every year since, on a monthly basis for approximately six months. The forthcoming edition is due to commence in October 2014.

ABOUT SAADIYAT CULTURAL DISTRICT

[Saadiyat Cultural District](#) on Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi, is devoted to culture and the arts. An ambitious cultural undertaking of the 21st century, it will be a nucleus for global culture, attracting local, regional and international visitors with unique exhibitions, permanent collections, productions and performances. Its iconic buildings will form a historical statement on the finest 21st century architecture; [Zayed National Museum](#), [Louvre Abu Dhabi](#) and [Guggenheim Abu Dhabi](#). These museums will complement and collaborate with local and regional arts and cultural institutions including Universities and Research Centres.

ABOUT AGENCE FRANCE MUSEUMS

Agence France-Muséums is an organisation that was established for the realisation of Louvre Abu Dhabi and in partnership with French institutions. AFM 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 structuring the expertise of the French cultural institutions involved. It provides consultancy services to the authorities of the United Arab Emirates including definition of the scientific and cultural project, assistance to the project management, the creation of a permanent collection and the museum's policy on visitors.