

**THE UNKNOWN MONET: PASTELS AND DRAWINGS
THE SACKLER WING OF GALLERIES**

17 March – 10 June 2007

Sponsored by: **Bank of America** 

The first exhibition to be devoted to Monet's drawings and pastels will open at the Royal Academy of Arts in March. The exhibition will offer a groundbreaking exploration of a previously undiscovered aspect of his career: his surprisingly significant role as a draughtsman. The Unknown Monet: Pastels and Drawings will offer a revolutionary new interpretation of the artist's life and work. There will be approximately 80 works drawn together from private collections and museums in the USA, Europe and Japan, that will make the link between the works on paper and on canvas.

This revelatory exhibition will uncover Monet's hidden talent as a draughtsman, a gift that he publicly disavowed. This little-known aspect of the artist's working method will be brought to light, citing largely unknown, never-before-exhibited works that overturn the accepted image of the artist. **The Unknown Monet: Pastels and Drawings** reveals an extensive group of graphic works created over the course of the artist's career, many of which are unknown to the general public and to scholars: beautiful pastels, stunning black chalk drawings, and fascinating sketchbooks, which include pencil studies that relate to many of his paintings.

The exhibition will open with the caricatures and landscape studies drawn by the young artist in Le Havre and Paris, showing Monet's awareness of the prevailing graphic models of the 1850s. It continues with his use of drawing in the preparation of paintings such as the large but aborted, *Déjeuner sur l'herbe* and the Normandy landscapes of the 1860s, together with his mastery of pastel and its relationship to the oil paintings of the Impressionist years.

The exhibition will additionally reveal links between drawing, pastel and painting in mid-career, as shown in his *Étretat* scenes; the fusion of pastel and paint in Monet's London series; and the importance of linear design underlying the *Nymphéas (water lilies)* panels. A section is devoted to the drawings Monet made for reproduction, including his engagement with lithography. A considerable number of drawings and pastels as well as around a dozen paintings – including *The Cliffs at Étretat* from the collection of the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, USA – will be exhibited.

ORGANISATION

The exhibition is curated by Dr. James A. Ganz, Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs at the Clark, Richard Kendall Curator-at-Large at the Clark, with the consultative assistance of MaryAnne Stevens, Acting Secretary and Senior Curator of the Royal Academy of Arts. The exhibition is organised by the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in association with the Royal Academy of Arts. The exhibition will tour to the Clark 24 June – 16 September 2007.

CATALOGUE

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue written by James A. Ganz and Richard Kendall, produced by the Clark and distributed by Yale University Press.

EXHIBITION TOUR

The Sterling & Francine Clark Institute, Williamstown, USA 23 June – 16 September 2007

AUDIOGUIDE

The audioguide provides a comprehensive guide to the exhibition, enabling a greater understanding of **The Unknown Monet: Pastels and Drawings**.

DATES AND OPENING HOURS

Press View	13 March 2007, 10 am – 2 pm
Open to public:	17 March – 10 June 2007 10 am – 6 pm daily (last admission 5.30 pm)
Late night openings:	Fridays until 10 pm (last admission 9.30 pm)

ADMISSION

£8 full price; £7 Registered Disabled and 60 + years; £6 NUS / ISIC cardholders;
£3 12–18 years and Income Support; £2 8–11 years; 7 and under free.

TICKETS

For advance tickets to **The Unknown Monet: Pastels and Drawings** please visit www.royalacademy.org.uk or call +44 (0)870 848 8484. Groups of 10 or more must book in advance call 020 7300 8027 or email: groupbookings@royalacademy.org.uk

IMAGES

Publicity images for **The Unknown Monet: Pastels and Drawings** can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at www.papicselect.co.uk and once registered go to the Royal Academy folder in the Arts section.

For public information, please print 020 7300 8000 or www.royalacademy.org.uk.

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