

**EXCEPTIONAL COLLECTION OF EDGAR DEGAS MASTERWORKS
TO BE PRESENTED AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUMS
AUGUST 1 – NOVEMBER 27, 2005**

***Degas at Harvard* Brings Together Harvard's Collection of Degas Works For the First Time**



Hilaire-Germain-Edgar Degas, *Chanteuse de Café*, c. 1878. Pastel on canvas, 63 x 50.4 cm. Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University Art Museums, Bequest from the Collection of Maurice Wertheim, Class of 1906, 1951.68. Photo: Photographic Services, HUAM. © President and Fellows of Harvard College.

CAMBRIDGE, MA (February 16, 2005)—This August, the Harvard University Art Museums will present *Degas at Harvard*, an exhibition examining Harvard University's comprehensive holdings by Edgar Degas – one of the most important collections of the artist's work in the United States. The exhibition will draw together more than 60 works from the Fogg's own collection, together with promised gifts and significant works from The Dumbarton Oaks and Research Library and Collection in Washington, D.C., and The Houghton Library at Harvard. The exhibition, which is organized by the Fogg Art Museum, will include paintings, sculpture, drawings, prints, and photographs. *Degas at Harvard* will be on view at the Arthur M. Sackler Museum from August 1 to November 27, 2005.

In 1911, the Fogg was the first museum to mount an exhibition of works by Degas and was the only museum to do so during the artist's lifetime. This exhibition explores the range and depth of Degas' artistic innovation, and Harvard's pivotal role in fostering understanding and scholarship of his works through the commitment of its curators, collectors, and the generations of scholars who have worked with the collection at the Fogg. Among the works featured in the exhibition will be the bronze sculpture *Little Dancer, Fourteen Years Old* (1880), the pastel *Chanteuse de Café* (c. 1878), and the photograph *Untitled (Self-Portrait in his Library)* (c. 1895).

Degas at Harvard is curated by Edward Saywell, Charles C. Cunningham, Sr., Curatorial Associate in Drawings and Stephan Wolohojian, Curator, Department of Paintings, Sculpture and Decorative Arts. The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue with essays by Harvard curator Marjorie Benedict Cohn and Jean Sutherland Boggs, an independent scholar and former pupil of former Fogg director Paul Sachs, and a Leventritt lecture series involving many of today's leading Degas scholars.

About the Harvard University Art Museums

The Harvard University Art Museums form one of the world's leading arts institutions, with the Arthur M. Sackler, Busch-Reisinger, and Fogg art museums, the Straus Center for Conservation, and the U.S. headquarters for the Archaeological Exploration of Sardis, an excavation project in western Turkey.

The Harvard University Art Museums are distinguished by the range and depth of their collections, their groundbreaking exhibitions, and the original research of their staff. As an integral part of the Harvard community, the three art museums serve as resources for all students, adding a special dimension to their areas of study. The public is welcome to experience the collections and exhibitions as well as to enjoy lectures, symposia, and other programs.

For more than a century, the Harvard University Art Museums have been the nation's premier training ground for museum professionals and scholars and are renowned for their role in the development of the discipline of art history in this country.

Location and Hours

The Fogg Art Museum and the Busch-Reisinger Museum are located at 32 Quincy Street in Cambridge. The Arthur M. Sackler Museum is located next door at 485 Broadway. Each Museum is a short walk from the Harvard Square MBTA station.

Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday 1 – 5 p.m.; the Museums are closed on national holidays. Admission is \$6.50; \$5 for seniors; \$5 for students; and free for those under 18 years of age. The Museums are free to everyone on Saturday mornings, 10 a.m. – noon. The Harvard University Art Museums receive support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. More detailed information is available at 617-495-9400 or on the Internet at www.artmuseums.harvard.edu.

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