

**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS, DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS, AND PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF
ART COLLABORATE ON MAJOR DEGAS EXHIBITION**

Degas and the Dance, focusing on the artist's lifelong love of the ballet—the one subject that engrossed the French artist more than any other—is a large-scale exhibition some five years in the making. Bringing together loans from approximately 100 public and private collections around the world, the exhibition is the most in-depth examination of this subject to date. *Degas and the Dance* is also the first exhibition to be jointly organized by the American Federation of Arts, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. It will be seen only in Detroit and Philadelphia.

In 1997, the American Federation of Arts began working with Richard Kendall on the concept that would become this exhibition. Kendall, an independent curator and leading scholar of Impressionism and Degas, brought to the project co-curator Jill DeVonyar, a specialist in both dance of late-19th century France and the work of Degas, and a former ballet dancer. When the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Philadelphia Museum of Art were approached to present the exhibition, the two museums' enthusiasm for the project and history of organizing exhibitions together forged the way for an overall collaboration.

Each museum owns a renowned collection of the work of Degas and his Impressionist and Post-Impressionist contemporaries. The Detroit Institute of Arts and the Philadelphia Museum of Art previously collaborated on *Van Gogh: Face to Face* with the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. This collaboration produced an exhibition that set record-breaking attendance numbers and increased

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membership significantly at each of the three museums during its showing in 1999–2000.

Degas and the Dance is a comprehensive study of Degas' focus on ballet, featuring 144 works by the artist. The exhibition presents his paintings, works on paper, and sculptures, along with an extensive array of contextual materials, including set models, costume designs, and photographs of dancers. Several works from the collections of the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Philadelphia Museum of Art will be included in the exhibition, notably, *Dancers in the Green Room* (ca. 1879), *Dancer Adjusting Her Slipper* (ca. 1879), and *Spanish Dancer* (1900) from the Detroit Institute of Arts; and *Little Dancer, Aged Fourteen* (1878–81), *The Ballet Master, Jules Perrot* (1875), and *The Ballet Class* (ca. 1878–80) from the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Degas and the Dance will be on view at the Detroit Institute of Arts from October 20, 2002, to January 12, 2003, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art from February 12 to May 11, 2003. The exhibition is organized by the American Federation of Arts, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.