

PRESS RELEASE

MAJOR AUTUMN SHOW ON THE ARTISTIC FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN MATISSE AND BONNARD

**MATISSE – BONNARD. “LONG LIVE PAINTING!”
13 SEPTEMBER 2017 TO 14 JANUARY 2018
Städel Museum, Exhibition House**

Frankfurt am Main, 7 June 2017. The Städel Museum is currently preparing a major special exhibition: From 13 September, the Frankfurt museum will be presenting two outstanding artists – Henri Matisse (1869–1954) and Pierre Bonnard (1867–1947) – in an exhibition that is the first in Germany to bring these key modern masters together. At the heart of the comprehensive presentation is the friendship between the two French artists which lasted for over forty years. Both painters shared a preference for the same range of subjects: interiors, still lifes, landscapes and the female nude. With a selection of more than a hundred paintings, sculptures, drawings and prints, the exhibition opens a dialogue between Matisse and Bonnard and offers new perspectives on the development of the European avant-garde from the beginning of the twentieth century to the end of the Second World War.

After the successful conclusion of the extensive loan negotiations, the Städel is looking forward to presenting outstanding works from internationally renowned collections, among them the Art Institute of Chicago, the Tate Modern in London, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Centre Pompidou and the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, the State Hermitage in Saint Petersburg and the National Gallery of Art in Washington. The selection of works is complemented by a substantial group of photographs by Henri Cartier-Bresson who visited the artists on the French Riviera in 1944. A particular highlight of the exhibition are the two paintings the artists owned by one another, which will be shown together for the first time. Another highlight is Matisse's *Large Reclining Nude* of 1935 – a key work which has not been on display in Germany for more than thirty years and which will be on loan from the Baltimore Museum of Art.

**Städelsches Kunstinstitut
und Städtische Galerie**

Dürerstraße 2
60596 Frankfurt am Main
Telefon +49(0)69-605098-234
Fax +49(0)69-605098-111
presse@staedelmuseum.de
www.staedelmuseum.de

PRESSEDOWNLOADS
www.staedelmuseum.de

**PRESSE- UND
ÖFFENTLICHKEITSARBEIT**
Axel Braun, Leitung
presse@staedelmuseum.de

Alexandra Hahn, stv. Leitung
Telefon +49(0)69-605098-234
Fax +49(0)69-605098-188
hahn@staedelmuseum.de

Paula Stuckatz
Telefon +49(0)69-605098-268
Fax +49(0)69-605098-188
stuckatz@staedelmuseum.de

The exhibition is sponsored by the global banking group Societe Generale and supported by the Städtelscher Museums-Verein as well as the Georg und Franziska Speyer'sche Hochschulstiftung.

“French art has a long tradition at the Städel Museum. Henri Matisse and Pierre Bonnard – both of whom are represented in our collection – had long and successful careers and enjoyed recognition far beyond the borders of their native France. Our autumn exhibition is the first to allow the German public to experience the two artist friends in a fascinating dialogue and to discover Bonnard, who is less well-known in Germany, through a sizable number of his most important works,” the Städel's director, Philipp Demandt, explains.

The title of the exhibition, “Long Live Painting!” is based on the programmatic exclamation with which Matisse saluted his friend Bonnard on 13 August 1925. Those three words on a postcard from Amsterdam were the beginning of a correspondence that went on for more than twenty years and that testifies to the depth of the respect and appreciation the two artists felt for each other. In the first decade of the twentieth century, both painters left Paris, then the capital of the avant-garde, for the Côte d'Azur, where they continued to cement their reputation as leading lights of the European art scene. Despite the near-contiguity of their lives and careers, art historians tend to correlate them with two opposing trends: Bonnard's breezy, loose brushwork and scintillating soft pastels give rise to the construct of the painter as the last great heir of Impressionism, while Matisse's preference for strong colours and flat, heavily contoured compositions earn him the accolade of being named a pioneer of twentieth-century abstraction. The juxtaposition of the two friends and colleagues questions this long-established view of their respective oeuvres and sheds new light on their distinct contributions to the development of modern painting.

MATISSE – BONNARD. “LONG LIVE PAINTING!”

Curator: Dr. Felix Krämer (Head of Modern Art, Städel Museum)

Co-curator: Dr. Daniel Zamani (Assistant Curator of Modern Art, Städel Museum)

Exhibition duration: 13 September 2017 to 14 January 2018

Information: www.staedelmuseum.de, info@staedelmuseum.de,
telephone +49(0)69-605098-200, fax +49(0)69-605098-112

Visitor services: telephone [+49\(0\)69-605098-232](tel:+49(0)69-605098-232), email besucherdienst@staedelmuseum.de

Location: Städel Museum, Schaumainkai 63, 60596 Frankfurt am Main

Opening hours: Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun & public holidays: 10 am–6 pm, Thurs & Fri: 10 am–9 pm,
Mon: closed

Special opening hours: Tue, 3.10., 10 am–6 pm; Tue, 31.10., 10 am–6 pm, 24.12., closed;
25. + 26.12., 10 am–18 pm; 31.12., closed; Mon, 01.01.18, 11 am–6 pm; Mon, 08.01.18, 10 am–6 pm

Admission: €14; concessions: €12, family ticket: €24; Sat, Sun, public holidays: €16, concessions:
€ 14; free entry for children under 12; groups of more than 10 regular-admission paying people:
reduced per person rate. Groups must give notice of visit in advance by calling [+49 \(0\)69-605098-
200](tel:+49069605098200) or emailing info@staedelmuseum.de

Advance ticket sales online at: Early Bird tickets are available in the online shop for €10. Available
for a limited period only.

Social Media: The Städel Museum posts updates on the exhibition on social-media platforms using
the hashtags #MatisseBonnard and #Staedel.

Catalogue: Accompanying the exhibition, a catalogue with 240 pages and 208 colour illustrations will
be published by Prestel. It includes contributions by Dita Amory, Jenny Graser, Margrit Hahnloser-
Ingold, Iris Hasler, Felix Krämer, Elena Schroll, Beate Söntgen, and Daniel Zamani. German
edition/English edition, €39.90 (museum edition).

Sponsored by: Societe Generale, Städelscher Museums-Verein e.V.

With additional support by: Georg und Franziska Speyer'sche Hochschulstiftung

Media partner: Süddeutsche Zeitung

Cultural partner: hr2-kultur