



MEDIA RELEASE

AUCKLAND ART GALLERY TO RECEIVE AN UNPRECEDENTED GIFT OF WORKS OF ART FROM AMERICAN COLLECTORS AND PHILANTHROPISTS

JULIAN AND JOSIE ROBERTSON



Paul CÉZANNE
La route (Le mur d'enceinte) 1875-76
Oil on canvas
500 x 506 mm



Pablo PICASSO
Femme à la résille 1938
Oil on canvas
460 x 380 mm



Henri MATISSE
Espagnole (buste)
1922
Oil on canvas
505 x 345 mm



Salvador DALÍ
Instrument masochiste
1933-34
Oil on canvas
619 x 470 mm



Piet MONDRIAN
Composition with black, red, grey, yellow and blue
ca 1920
Gouache
278 x 191 mm

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki has announced a promised gift of 15 works of art through its Foundation, including paintings by Cézanne, Picasso, Matisse, Gauguin and Mondrian – the largest gift ever made to an art museum in Australasia.

The gift, from New York art collectors and philanthropists Julian and Josie Robertson, represents some of the major European artists of the modern era. Its cultural value places it among the most generous philanthropic acts in New Zealand history.

In 2006, the Auckland Art Gallery organised an exhibition of 12 works from the Julian and Josie Robertson collection, also shown at Te Papa in Wellington. Six of those works are included in the gift.

Julian and Josie Robertson say, “We have had a lifelong love affair with New Zealand. We love Auckland. And we love these pictures. That’s why we were so pleased when we brought these works to New Zealand that New Zealanders seemed to enjoy them as much as we do. Frankly, bringing the pictures was probably the most appreciated thing we have ever done. We are delighted to be able to make this gift.”

Mayor of Auckland City John Banks said, “The Julian and Josie Robertson collection is an extraordinarily precious gift to the people of Auckland. It would be difficult to overstate the significance of this collection to our city and to Aucklanders who have previously had to travel overseas to see art of this calibre.”

Gallery director Chris Saines said, “We are thrilled to receive this truly astonishing gift. It represents many of the major artists who attended the birth of modernism, their works illustrating the history of European art at one of its most crucial turning points. The effect of the gift will be far-reaching, transforming Auckland’s ability to tell the story of modern art.”

The gift comes at an important time for the gallery as it undertakes a \$113 million refurbishment and expansion project, which will more than double the scale of public space in the building. The gift demonstrates an immense degree of confidence in the gallery and will galvanise the Foundation’s fundraising efforts.

In recognition of this singular act of philanthropy, a suite of rooms in the developed building's 1887 Kitchener wing will be named the Julian and Josie Robertson Galleries.

It is hoped the promised gift will be on display for a short time following the new building's planned April 2011 opening and at intervals thereafter.

Julian Robertson came to prominence as one of the most successful and dominant figures in the United States financial market in 1980 when he co-founded Tiger Management L.L.C., which became the world's largest hedge fund. The family own two world-class golf resorts, Kauri Cliffs in Northland and Cape Kidnappers in the Hawke's Bay, and the iconic Te Awa and Dry River wineries.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: www.aucklandartgallery.govt.nz/press/robertson.asp

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