



ABOUT FRAME

The French Regional & American Museum Exchange (FRAME) is a formal collaboration of 12 museums in France and 12 museums in the United States that serves as a catalyst for cultural exchange between France and the United States. FRAME is dedicated to promoting French American cooperation in the cultural arena concerning museums, their collections and their professional staffs. It fosters partnerships, projects and exchanges of information, personnel, technology and resources. The projects range from a shared website to joint exhibitions, educational resources and programs, and publications. They serve the cultural needs of each country and educate a constituency of great size, breadth and distribution. The museums of FRAME are all purposely drawn from regions outside the economic and governmental capitals of both countries, in order to draw attention to, and broadly share, the richness of cultural resources that characterize these institutions and regions.

Thanks to this unique consortium, extraordinary collections are placed at the service of an ever wider public on both sides of the Atlantic as these institutions share and exchange works of art, scholarship, ideas and technology in long-term and ever-evolving partnerships among their constituents.

HISTORY

FRAME was based on a concept developed in 1999 by Elizabeth Rohatyn, wife of then U.S. Ambassador to France Felix G. Rohatyn, and realized by her and Françoise Cachin, then Director of the French National Museums. In a 2004 interview, Ms. Rohatyn recalled traveling extensively throughout France with her husband and visiting many of the areas' museums. Ms. Rohatyn realized that it would be a wonderful opportunity to form a consortium with American and French regional museums so that visitors to each country could experience the marvelous sorts of adventures she had had in discovering French culture through art. "It would be a kind of cultural diplomacy," she said. She and Mme Cachin invited Madame Bernadette Chirac, then the French president's wife, to be FRAME's honorary president. She gracefully accepted, giving all the more importance to the project. She also attended FRAME's formative meeting in Lyons, France, in 1999. Richard Brettell, Margaret McDermott Distinguished Chair of Art and Aesthetics at The University of Texas at Dallas and prominent authority on nineteenth-century art, was asked to recruit and guide American museum participation, and Mme Cachin assumed that role in France. In 2002 Elizabeth Rohatyn was awarded the Légion d'honneur, France's highest decoration, for her outstanding work in promoting cultural ties between France and the U.S., and in 2007 she became an Officer of the Légion d'honneur. In 2008 the American Federation of Arts presented its Cultural Leadership Award to Ms. Rohatyn for her work in fostering cultural diplomacy and international collaboration among art museums as a founder of FRAME.

At its formation, FRAME comprised nine American and nine French cities' museums. FRAME's initial American member institutions were the Portland Art Museum, The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, the Dallas Museum of Art, The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, The Saint Louis Art Museum, The Cleveland Museum of Art, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Yale University Art Gallery, and the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute. FRAME's initial French member institutions were Musée des Beaux-Arts, Rennes; Musée des Beaux-Arts, Bordeaux; Musée des Augustins, Toulouse; the city museums of Rouen; Palais des Beaux-Arts, Lille; Musée Fabre, Montpellier; Musée des Beaux-Arts, Lyon; Musée de Grenoble; and the city museums of Strasbourg. In 2004 the High Museum of Art (Atlanta), the Denver Art Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the city museums of Marseille, Musée des Beaux-Arts, Tours and

Musée des Beaux-Arts, Dijon, France, were added. In 2006 Yale University Art Gallery left the consortium, and in 2008 membership was granted to the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art. In addition, in 2008 the Fine Arts Museum of Montreal (Canada) became FRAME's first Associate Member.

Today FRAME is a 501(c) 3 U.S. non-profit corporation with offices in the United States and France. It is led by co-presidents Elizabeth Rohatyn (USA) and Marie-Christine Labourdette, Director of French Museums, Direction des Musées de France, Paris (FRANCE). FRAME's directors are Richard R. Brettell, Ph.D. (U.S.A.), and Jean-Hubert Martin, Conservateur Général du Patrimoine, Directeur de FRAME en France (FRANCE).

FRAME is funded by its member museums and various foundations and corporate sponsors. In France, extra funding comes from the municipalities in which the FRAME museums are located. It receives financial and logistic support from France's Ministry of Culture and Communication, particularly for projects credited with the "Exposition d'intérêt national" label.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Exhibitions. FRAME has originated many exhibitions of works of art drawn largely or completely from member collections, which have traveled to member museums. Additionally, information and images from many past exhibitions are archived on the FRAME website.

Publications. FRAME has produced a series of publications and exhibition catalogs of scholarly importance and popular interest.

Education Programs. FRAME has developed a wealth of innovative educational programs and online resources designed to illuminate and bring special meaning to the permanent collections of FRAME museums and engage American and French communities with each others' culture. The educational programs of FRAME are made possible by the generous support of The Annenberg Foundation.

Online Collections. FRAME's online Galleries bring together more than a thousand images and information about works of art from its member museums, which can be sorted and explored based on geography, epoch and location. Special online collections, such as New Acquisitions, highlight recent additions to FRAME museum collections.

Professional collaboration. Through biannual meetings in France and the U.S. a broad range of museum professionals, including educators, curators, registrars, directors, and others gain a deeper understanding of each other's practices, cultures and audiences while creating new exhibitions, publications and other programs. Meetings act as focal points for the collaborative activities that take place all year.

Press Coverage. FRAME exhibitions have been extensively covered in the U.S. and European media, bringing special attention to our members' treasures and curatorial insight.

Portal to French and American regional museums. The FRAME website provides ready access to information about and web links to its member museums, thereby fostering interest in these institutions and tourism in their regions.

CONTACT

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