



NATIONAL  
GALLERIES OF  
SCOTLAND



Vincent van Gogh, *Garden with Path*, 1888  
Gemeentemuseum den Haag

## **BNY MELLON TO SPONSOR SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER AT NATIONAL GALLERIES OF SCOTLAND**

The National Galleries of Scotland is delighted to announce that BNY Mellon is to sponsor *Impressionist Gardens*, this year's major summer exhibition at the National Gallery Complex in Edinburgh. This will be the first time that BNY Mellon, which recently sponsored *The Real Van Gogh: The Artist and his Letters* at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, has supported the National Galleries of Scotland.

"Edinburgh is one of our businesses' key centres and it is a special privilege to support this landmark project and the National Galleries of Scotland, whose championing of public access and education is very much in tune with the key principles that inform our own international programme of arts sponsorship," said Woody Kerr, Vice-Chairman of Europe at BNY Mellon. "I have no doubt that this remarkable exhibition will prove a huge success for both the National Galleries and the city of Edinburgh itself."

Commenting on the announcement, John Leighton, Director-General of the National Galleries of Scotland, said, '*Impressionist Gardens* will be the big festival exhibition at the National Gallery of Scotland this year, and a highlight of our summer season. This is the first time that this fascinating subject has been the focus of a major exhibition and we are delighted to have secured some spectacular loans from collections around the world. To organise an exhibition on this scale would have been almost impossible without the generous support we have received from BNY

Mellon, and we are extremely grateful to them for helping us to stage this landmark show.'

*Impressionist Gardens*, which has been organised in partnership with the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza in Madrid, will be the first major international exhibition to examine the Impressionists' fascination with gardens and gardening, a subject that was of central importance in their work. This groundbreaking exhibition will include around 100 works from collections such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the National Gallery of Art, Washington; the Musée d'Orsay, Paris; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and the Staatsgalerie, Stuttgart.

*Impressionist Gardens* is being curated by Michael Clarke, Director of the National Gallery of Scotland and organiser of many exhibitions on Impressionism, and Dr Clare Willson, Reader in History of Art at the University of Glasgow and a world expert on the subject.

Throughout its 225 year history, BNY Mellon has supported non-profit organisations addressing cultural awareness and access, economic vitality, education and urgent human needs. It is proud to have worked with many of the world's leading art, cultural and philanthropic institutions, and to have supported them with charitable investments, sponsorships and through the volunteer efforts of our employees.

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#### **Notes to editors**

#### **IMPRESSIONIST GARDENS**

**31 July to 17 October 2010**

**NATIONAL GALLERY COMPLEX, The Mound, Edinburgh, EH2 2EL**

**Telephone 0131 6246 6200; recorded information 0131 332 2266**

**[www.nationalgalleries.org](http://www.nationalgalleries.org)**

***Admission £10/£7***

*Impressionist Gardens* will bring together some of the most famous names of Impressionism, with fine examples by Monet, Pissarro, Renoir, Manet and Sisley. In addition, the exhibition will examine the continued significance of the Impressionist garden to the generation of artists working immediately after the Impressionists, such as Cézanne and Pierre Bonnard. This will be the only UK showing.

Gardens and flowers were a constant theme in Impressionist painting and inspired these great artists to produce some of their most beautiful and memorable paintings. Claude Monet is perhaps the best known in this respect, with his famous paintings of the gardens of his various homes, most notably the splendid garden he created at his house at Giverny in rural Normandy. All the Impressionists, however, featured gardens in their work, ranging from the 'working' or kitchen gardens portrayed by Camille Pissarro, Alfred Sisley and Berthe Morisot, to the splendidly ambitious gardens of Gustave Caillebotte, himself a member of the Impressionist group, and whose magnificent bequest of Impressionist paintings to the French state forms the basis of the world-famous collection of Impressionism now housed in the Musée d'Orsay in Paris.

This exhibition will trace the origins of the Impressionist garden, beginning with examples by the great school of early 19<sup>th</sup>-century flower painters at Lyons and looking at such important precursors as Delacroix and Corot, before moving on to the ambitious central section of the show which will feature many outstanding paintings by the Impressionists themselves. A final section will examine the 'spread' of the Impressionist garden in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. European and American artists will feature in this section and will include Vincent van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, Gustav Klimt and John Singer Sargent.

In addition to providing this dazzling array of world-class masterpieces, the exhibition will also illustrate the history of gardening during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, demonstrating how attention switched from the great estates and parks to the suburban garden, an environment which the Impressionists very much made their own as they portrayed 'modern life'. The exhibition will therefore have a twin appeal, both to those who love great art and to the great army of gardening enthusiasts everywhere.

**For further information and images, please call the Press Office  
on 0131 624 6247/ 325/ 332/ 314**

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