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**SFMOMA PRESENTS *MATISSE: PAINTER AS SCULPTOR*
Exhibition Examines Artist's Achievements in Sculpture**

From June 9 through September 16, 2007, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) will present the exhibition, *Matisse: Painter as Sculptor*, the first major U.S. examination of Henri Matisse's sculpture in nearly 40 years. The exhibition features more than 150 works in a variety of media to illustrate the artist's inventiveness, dexterity, and historical significance. Side-by-side presentations of two- and three-dimensional pieces showcase the way themes, imagery, and processes overlapped in Matisse's studio practice, while a selection of works by the artist's peers—including Constantin Brancusi, Paul Cézanne, Edgar Degas, Alberto Giacometti, Pablo Picasso, and Auguste Rodin, among other modern masters—provides a vivid context for considering Matisse's oeuvre.



Henri Matisse, *Large Seated Nude*, 1922-29; The Baltimore Museum of Art, The Cone Collection, formed by Dr. Claribel Cone and Miss Etta Cone of Baltimore, Maryland. © 2007 Succession H. Matisse, Paris/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Matisse: Painter as Sculptor is organized thematically around a core group of more than 40 of Matisse's sculptural masterpieces, which are complemented by a selection of related works on paper, paintings, and original photographs of the artist in his studio. These integrated groupings illuminate the evolution of Matisse's sculptural ideas and his complex creative process. The exhibition explores how the artist's drawings may have developed through sculpture and how sculpture may have influenced his painting. Matisse's bronze sculpture *Reclining Nude I (Aurora)* (1907) appears alongside the painting *Blue Nude: Memory of Biskra* (1907), a canvas that the artist was painting during a key and difficult moment in the modeling of the sculpture. The painted and sculpted representations of the reclining female nude evolved together and were inextricably linked. Other exhibition highlights include the bronze sculptures *Madeleine I* (1901) and *Madeleine II* (1903), the five portrait busts of

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Jeanette (1910–14), and the monumental series of four bronze reliefs known as *The Backs* (1909–30), Matisse's most sustained exploration of the reduction and abstraction of the human form.

In conjunction with the exhibition, a fully illustrated catalogue, *Matisse: The Painter as Sculptor*, has been coproduced with Yale University Press. The catalogue presents new scholarship through a series of essays offering insights into Matisse's sculptural work: Steven Nash discusses Matisse's patronage and the reception of his sculpture in America; Dorothy Kosinski probes the art historical context of Matisse's sculpture in dialogue with tradition and the avant-garde; Oliver Shell examines the artist's ideas about the viewing of his sculpture, as revealed by his deliberate placement of sculpture in exhibitions; Shell and Ann Boulton, Baltimore Museum of Art objects conservator, summarize technical studies undertaken while they held a joint fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art; and Jay McKean Fisher explores the use of drawing in the evolution of Matisse's sculptural ideas. The book is available at the SFMOMA MuseumStore.

A self-guided audio tour is available, featuring guides to *Matisse: Painter as Sculptor* and the SFMOMA collection. Scholars and conservators discuss Matisse's sculptural process while contemporary sculptors provide their own takes on Matisse's artistic inventiveness. The audio tour is available for \$2.

Following SFMOMA's presentation, the exhibition will travel to The Baltimore Museum of Art (October 28, 2007–February 8, 2008).

The exhibition was jointly organized by The Baltimore Museum of Art, the Dallas Museum of Art, and the Nasher Sculpture Center. The San Francisco presentation is organized by Janet Bishop, SFMOMA curator of painting and sculpture. The national tour is presented by Bank of America, the exhibition's exclusive corporate partner. This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. Additional organizing support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts. The San Francisco presentation is generously supported by Koret Foundation Funds and the Evelyn D. Haas Exhibition Fund.

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Visit our Web site at www.sfmoma.org or call 415.357.4000 for more information.

Museum hours: Open daily (except Wednesdays): 11 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.; open late Thursdays, until 8:45 p.m. Summer hours (Memorial Day to Labor Day): Open at 10 a.m. Closed Wednesdays and the following public holidays: New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas. The Museum is open the Wednesday between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Koret Visitor Education Center: Open daily (except Wednesdays): 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; open late Thursdays, until 8:30 p.m. Summer hours: Open at 10 a.m.

Admission prices: Adults \$12.50; seniors \$8; students \$7. SFMOMA members and children 12 and under are admitted free. Thursday evenings after 6 p.m. admission is half-price. The first Tuesday of each month admission is free. SFMOMA is easily accessible by Muni, BART, Golden Gate Transit, SamTrans, and Caltrain. Hourly, daily, and monthly parking is available at the SFMOMA Garage at 147 Minna Street. For parking information, call 415.348.0971.

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art is supported by a broad array of contributors who are committed to helping advance its mission as a dynamic center for modern and contemporary art. Major annual support is provided by Koret Foundation Funds, Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund, and Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund. KidstART free admission for children 12 and under is made possible by Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. Thursday evening half-price admission is sponsored by Banana Republic.