

Press Release
Friday 16 July 2021

CÉZANNE MASTERPIECES SHOWN IN NORWAY FOR THE FIRST TIME
BEFORE RETURNING TO LONDON FOR THE REOPENING OF THE
COURTAULD GALLERY IN NOVEMBER 2021

Paul Cézanne: Masterpieces from The Courtauld

KODE 1, Bergen, Norway

16th July – 10th October 2021



To download high-resolution images: <https://bit.ly/3hrP6St>

Masterpieces from the UK's most significant collection of works by Cézanne will travel to Norway for the first time for a special exhibition at KODE Art Museums in Bergen as part of a unique collaboration between KODE and The Courtauld, London.

Paul Cézanne: Masterpieces from The Courtauld opens at KODE1 on 16th July 2021 and will present a major group of paintings, together with archival material, from The Courtauld's celebrated collection of works by Cézanne - one of the highlights of its world-renowned holdings of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art.

Following the exhibition, the paintings will return to London for the reopening of The Courtauld Gallery in November after a major three-year transformation project. There they will be reunited with iconic Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings from The Courtauld's collection such as Manet's *A Bar at the Folies-Bergère*, Renoir's *La Loge*, and Van Gogh's *Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear*.

During the 1920s, English industrialist and philanthropist Samuel Courtauld assembled the

finest collections of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art in the UK, presenting it in 1932 to the newly founded Courtauld Institute of Art. He was particularly devoted to Cézanne, acquiring the largest collection of his work in the UK, including seminal paintings such as *Still Life with Plaster Cupid* and the celebrated *The Card Players*, which were formally owned by two private Norwegian collectors – the industrialist Gustav Adolf Jebsen and the shipowner Jørgen Breder Stang respectively.

In a similar way, Rasmus Meyer's large collection of art was donated to the city of Bergen in 1916. It included a unique group of works by Edvard Munch and highlights from the golden age of Norwegian art history. The point of departure for the collaboration between The Courtauld and KODE Art Museums is a shared recognition of the importance of visionary collectors to museums today.

These paintings will be on display in the exhibition for the first time in Norway since leaving the country in the early 20th Century and will be presented alongside other major loans from The Courtauld. The exhibition will also present a fascinating display of contextual and archival material from The Courtauld, including a group of Cézanne's handwritten letters, penned towards the end of his life in which he sets out his ideas about art.

Paul Cézanne: Masterpieces from The Courtauld is part of The Courtauld's programme of national and international partner exhibitions, providing a unique opportunity for more people to engage with The Courtauld's collection than ever before whilst the gallery is temporarily closed for the major transformation project.

The exhibition is curated by Line Daatland, Director of Exhibitions and Collections at KODE, together with Karen Serres, Curator of Paintings at The Courtauld and Barnaby Wright, Deputy Head of The Courtauld Gallery and Daniel Katz Curator of 20th Century Art. The exhibition is accompanied by a richly illustrated catalogue.

The Courtauld Gallery will reopen in November 2021 following the most significant modernisation project in its history, providing a transformed home for one of the UK's greatest art collections.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The Courtauld

The Courtauld works to advance how we see and understand the visual arts, as an internationally-renowned centre for the teaching, research of art history and a major public gallery. Founded by collectors and philanthropists in 1932, the organisation has been at the forefront of the study of art ever since, through advanced research and conservation practice, innovative teaching, the renowned collection and inspiring exhibitions of its gallery, and engaging and accessible activities, education and events.

The Courtauld cares for one of the greatest art collections in the UK, presenting these works to the public at The Courtauld Gallery in central London, as well as through loans and partnerships. The Gallery is most famous for its iconic Impressionist and Post-Impressionist masterpieces – such as Van Gogh's *Self Portrait with Bandaged Ear* and Manet's *A Bar at the Folies-Bergère*. It showcases these alongside an internationally renowned collection of works from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance through to the present day.

Academically, The Courtauld faculty is the largest community of art historians and conservators in the UK, teaching and carrying out research on subjects from creativity in late Antiquity to contemporary digital artforms - with an increasingly global focus. An independent college of the University of London, The Courtauld offers a range of degree programmes from BA to PhD in the History of Art, curating and the conservation of easel and wall paintings. Its alumni are leaders and innovators in the arts, culture and business worlds, helping to shape the global agenda for the arts and creative industries.

Founded on the belief that everyone should have the opportunity to engage with art, The Courtauld works to increase understanding of the role played by art throughout history, in all societies and across all geographies – as well as being a champion for the importance of art in the present day. This could be through exhibitions offering a chance to look closely at world-famous works; events bringing art history research to new audiences; accessible and expert short courses; digital engagement, innovative school, family and community programmes; or taking a formal qualification. The Courtauld's ambition is to transform access to art history education, by extending the horizons of what this is, and ensuring as many people as possible can benefit from the tools to better understand the visual world around us.

The Courtauld is currently undertaking an ambitious transformation project that will make it accessible to even more people. The Courtauld's home in historic Somerset House – London's working arts centre - is closed for a major programme of renovation. The Courtauld's students and academic staff are based near King's Cross. The Gallery is scheduled to reopen in November 2021.

The Courtauld is an exempt charity and relies on generous philanthropic support to achieve its mission of advancing the understanding of the visual arts of the past and present across the world, through advanced research, innovative teaching, inspiring exhibitions, programmes and collections.

The collection cared for by the Courtauld Gallery is owned by the Samuel Courtauld Trust, which has been a partner in the Courtauld Connects project

KODE Museums

KODE is one of the largest museums for art, craft, design and music in the Nordic countries. KODE has a unique combination of art museums and composers' homes, of contemporary art, historical objects, concerts and parklands.

The museums stewards almost 50,000 objects ranging from paintings, works on paper, sculptures, installations, videos, musical instruments, furniture and works of fine craft and design. KODE has world class collections of Edvard Munch and Nikolai Astrup, as well as several composer homes including Edvard Grieg's Trolldhaugen.