

Santa Barbara Museum of Art

A Legacy of Sharing European Masterworks

Van Gogh to Munch: European Masterworks from the Armand Hammer Foundation and Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation

IMPRESSIONIST MASTERWORKS comprise a stunning new exhibit at The Santa Barbara Museum of Art. A benefactors reception, including some of the individuals responsible for the decision to share them took place on Saturday at the Museum.

Van Gogh to Munch: European Masterworks from the Armand Hammer Foundation and Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation presents nearly 30 works, combining 12 paintings from SBMA's permanent collection with 17 extraordinary loans from two of the most important American collections of Impressionist and Modern art in the last century.

"It is such a treat for our audiences to be able to enjoy these great works of art, which in one fell swoop,

fill in several glaring lacunae in our permanent collection. We are extremely grateful to both Foundations, and in particular, to Michael Armand Hammer for his willingness to share these stunning paintings," commented SBMA Chief Curator, Eik Kahng.

On view through August 28, 2011, the exhibit is a selection of important paintings that have been generously lent by two Foundations: the Armand Hammer Foundation and the Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation.

"I remember growing up with these paintings on the walls when I was a kid. It's wonderful to see them together," Michael

Armand Hammer shared.

The works on loan in this exhibition complement beautifully many of the most beloved works of art in SBMA's collection of 19th-century French art and have been installed so as to demonstrate this easy dialogue. Works by Corot, Chagall, Degas, Fantin-Latour, Morisot, and Renoir from the Hammer Foundation

are presented side-by-side with canvases by the same or related masters from the Museum's own collection or from area private collections.

The large canvases by Norwegian artist Edvard Munch (1863-1944), in particular, are powerful embodiments of Western sensibilities at the turn of the last century, when cutting-edge art strove to represent the angst-ridden experience of the modern individual, alienated from society and suffering from the neuroses that Sigmund Freud would so eloquently describe in his *Civilization and its Discontents* (published in 1930).

The newest member to the Armand Hammer Foundation, Viktor Hammer, commented, "Since joining the Foundation Board, it's been interesting and I've found that I really love it."

Armand Hammer Foundation

The paintings on view from the Armand Hammer Foundation represent just a small fraction of the ravishing collection put together by Dr. Armand Hammer (1898-1990), an American business tycoon most closely associated with Occidental Petroleum.

Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation

Native Texan Sarah Campbell Blaffer (1885-1975) was an art patron and philanthropist, and daughter of William Thomas, one of the founders of the Texas Company (later Texaco). Her devotion to the visual arts began during a visit to the Louvre on her wedding trip to Europe in 1909 after her marriage to Robert E. Lee Blaffer, one of



Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Coastline at Antibes, 1888. Oil on canvas. Michael Armand Hammer and the Armand Hammer Foundation.

the founders of Humble Oil and Refining.

This exhibition was made possible through the generosity of Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree.



The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is a privately funded, not-for-profit institution that presents internationally recognized collections and exhibitions and a broad array of cultural and educational activities as well as travel opportunities around the world.

The Museum is located at 1130 State St and is open Tuesday-Sunday 11am to 5pm. For more information call 805-963-4364 or visit www.sbma.net.



Actor **Michael Keaton**; **Olivia Peloubet**; **Viktor Hammer**, of the Armand Hammer Foundation; and **Michael Armand Hammer**



Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree, exhibition donor and Life Honorary Trustee; **Larry Feinberg**, SBMA Director; and **Joey Pearson**, exhibition dinner donor and Trustee

Photo by Neil Campbell



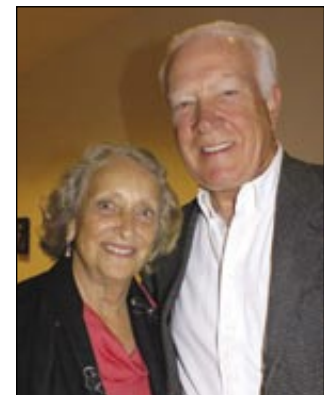
Rex Alexander, Armand Hammer Foundation; **Michael Armand Hammer**, Armand Hammer Foundation; and **Larry Feinberg**, SBMA Director



Edgar Degas, Laundress Carrying Linen, 1888-1892. Pastel. Michael Armand Hammer and the Armand Hammer Foundation.



Kenneth Anderson, SBMA Incoming Board Chair with **Eik Kahng**, SBMA Chief Curator



Alice Willfong and **George Umholtz**