FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monet: The Early Years

February 25 – May 29, 2017 | Legion of Honor

SAN FRANCISCO (September 6, 2016) — The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco are pleased to announce Monet: The Early Years at the Legion of Honor. This will be the first major US exhibition devoted to the initial phase of Claude Monet’s (French, 1840–1926) career. Through approximately sixty paintings, the exhibition demonstrates the radical invention that marked the artist’s development during the formative years of 1858 to 1872. In this period the young painter developed his unique visual language and technique, creating striking works that manifested his interest in painting textures and the interplay of light upon surfaces.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for visitors to see Monet's mastery – before Impressionism,” says Max Hollein, Director of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. “Monet is ubiquitous – people tend to think there is nothing more to know about him. This exhibition is revelatory.”

With a selection of works gathered from some of the most important international collections – the Musée d’Orsay in Paris, the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and other public and private collections worldwide – Monet: The Early Years authoritatively demonstrates the artist’s early command of many genres, not only the landscapes for which he has become so renowned but also still lifes, portraits and genre scenes.

“The paintings from Monet’s early career are profoundly daring and surprising,” comments Esther Bell, Curator in Charge of European Paintings at the Fine Art Museums.
of San Francisco. “You see his mastery of light and texture everywhere – in his
depictions of large and small moments, with friends and loved ones, in the solitude of
forests and fields and in the quiet scenes of everyday life. Every stroke commands our
attention.”

This exhibition follows the Legion of Honor’s strong history of showing highly important moments in
French Impressionism. By following Monet before Impressionism, visitors can see the emergence of his
style and how he helped shape the movement. Monet: The Early Years will be on view at the Legion of
Honor in San Francisco from February 25 through May 29, 2017. This is the first of two exhibitions
curated by George Shackelford, Deputy Director of the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, Texas to
examine the full artistic career of Claude Monet. The companion exhibition, Monet: The Late Years, will
come to San Francisco in 2019. Esther Bell is the curator of both exhibitions for the Fine Arts Museums of
San Francisco.

legionofhonor.famsf.org/monet-early-years | @legionofhonor | #EarlyMonet

Visiting | Legion of Honor
Lincoln Park, 100 34th Avenue, San Francisco. Open 9:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m. Tuesdays–Sundays. Open
select holidays; closed most Mondays.

Tickets
Tickets go on sale December 6, 2016 for members and December 14, 2016 for non-members. More
information is available at legionofhonor.famsf.org/legion/visiting.

An audio guide will be available for purchase to visitors.

A catalogue will accompany the exhibition.

Exhibition Organization
This exhibition is organized by the Kimbell Art Museum in collaboration with the Fine Arts Museums of
is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

About the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco
The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, comprising the de Young in Golden Gate Park and the Legion
of Honor in Lincoln Park, are the largest public arts institution in San Francisco.

The Legion of Honor was inspired by the French pavilion at San Francisco’s Panama-Pacific International
Exposition of 1915 and, like that structure, was modeled after the neoclassical Palais de la Légion
d’Honneur, in Paris. The museum, designed by George Applegarth, opened in 1924 on a bluff in Lincoln
Park overlooking the Golden Gate. Its holdings span 4,000 years and include European painting,
sculpture, and decorative arts; ancient art from the Mediterranean basin; and the largest collection of
works on paper in the American West.

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