

DAHESH MUSEUM OF ART

DAHESH MUSEUM OF ART FACT SHEET

MISSION

The Dahesh Museum of Art is the only institution in the United States devoted to collecting, exhibiting, and interpreting works by Europe's academically trained artists of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The Dahesh serves a diverse audience by placing these artists in the broader context of 19th-century visual culture, and by offering a fresh appraisal of the role academies played in reinvigorating the classical ideals of beauty, humanism, and skill.

HOURS

Museum Galleries are open 11-6, Tuesday through Sunday. On the first Thursday of every month the Museum is open from 6-9 when admission is free. The Museum Shop is open daily 11-6. Café Opaline is open daily 11-5 and serves Lunch until 3pm; Afternoon tea is served 2:30-5; and on Thursday and Fridays, there are extended hours from 5-7 pm when beer, wine, and hors d'oeuvres are served. Closed all Federal holidays.

ADMISSION

\$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (62+), and \$6 for students (with ID); free to Members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult.

RECENT HISTORY

- In September 2003, the Museum staff moves into 580 Madison Avenue, the former IBM Gallery of Science and Art, and enjoys the major renovation and redesign by Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates LLP. The new Museum occupies three floors; gallery space triples from our total of 1,800 square feet at 601 Fifth Avenue to 6,000 square feet. With an education studio and 210-seat auditorium, the Museum can welcome a larger, more diverse audience.
- The inaugural exhibition, *French Artists in Rome: Ingres to Degas, 1803-1873* is voted one of the top 10 exhibitions for 2003 by *New York Times* chief art critic Michael Kimmelman.
- Café Opaline is opened in January 2004, offering Lunch and Afternoon Tea.
- May 2004, Peter Trippi, formerly Assistant Vice Director for Development: Exhibitions and Collections at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, celebrates his one-year anniversary as Museum Director.

STAFF SIZE AND BUDGET

The Museum employs 40 individuals (including part-time clerks and guards) and the annual operating budget is \$6 million.

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COLLECTION

The permanent collection consists of 2,000 paintings, drawings, sculptures, prints, photographs, and books. Among the well-known artists represented in the Museum's collection are Antoine-Louis Barye, A.-W. Bouguereau, Alexandre Cabanel, Albert-Ernest Carrier-Belleuse, Paul Delaroche, Jean-Léon Gérôme, Frederic Leighton, Edwin Long, and Lawrence Alma-Tadema, all of whom taught or influenced succeeding generations of artists.

HISTORY

Chartered in 1987 and opened to the public in 1995, the Museum has established an international reputation, collaborating and exchanging artworks and exhibitions with museums worldwide. The Museum has partnered with large, prestigious institutions such as the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Musée d'Orsay, and Musée du Louvre, Paris; the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam; the Hermitage, St. Petersburg; the Pushkin Museum, Moscow; as well as distinguished smaller museums like the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum, Bournemouth, England and the Musée des Beaux-Arts, Montpellier, France.

The Museum was named to honor Dr. Dahesh, the pen name of Salim Moussa Achi (1909-1984), a Lebanese author, philosopher, and champion of human rights whose passionate and prescient collecting of 19th- and early 20th- century academic art inspired the Museum's founding. The artworks he acquired after 50 years of collecting, starting in the 1930s, form the core of the Museum's collection, which continues to grow through acquisitions and gifts.

PUBLICATIONS

The Dahesh Museum of Art has published and co-published over 30 exhibition catalogues and brochures. Co-publishers have included Yale University Press, Rutgers University Press, Cornell University Press, ACR Edition Paris, and the Réunion des Musées Nationaux, France.

EXHIBITIONS

Since it opened to the public in 1995, the Museum has presented 30 exhibitions, which have surveyed important aspects of the academic tradition. Please see the enclosed Advanced Exhibition Schedule for descriptions of upcoming special exhibitions.

CURATORIAL DEPARTMENT

Chief Curator, Stephen R. Edidin; Curator Roger Diederer; Associate Curator Lisa Small; Curatorial Research Associate Frank Verpoorten; and Curatorial Intern Catherine Donnelier.

PROGRAMS

Three special exhibitions per year, complemented by three rotations of the permanent collection; a full set of exhibition-related programs for adults, including screenings, panels, scholarly lectures, performances, symposia, tours, informal talks, and family programs. The Museum offers ASL tours as well as visual imaging tours for visitors with visual impairments. Educator resources can be downloaded from www.daheshmuseum.org

VISITORS

In its first year at 580 Madison (September 2003 – August 2004), the Museum welcomed 137,000 visitors.

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GOVERNANCE

There is a seven-member Board of Trustees; Amira Zahid is the Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, spokesperson for the Board, and founding member.

FUNDING

The Dahesh Museum of Art is privately funded through endowments, gifts, and grants. The Museum has received public grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts. It has also received support from Air France, the Florence Gould Foundation, Forbes Foundation, Isaacson-Draper Foundation, and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, as well as numerous private individuals.

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