

ART NOUVEAU

1890–1914

National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC 20565 • October 8, 2000 – January 28, 2001

The exhibition is organized by the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, in association with the National Gallery of Art, Washington

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**NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART ACQUIRES TURN-OF-CENTURY
PARIS METROPOLITAIN ENTRANCE:
AFTER EXHIBITION TOUR TO BE INSTALLED IN SCULPTURE GARDEN**

Washington, D.C. – The National Gallery of Art has acquired one of the few remaining turn-of-the-century Paris Métropolitain entrances that were removed between the 1930s and 1960s but not destroyed. Of the 141 models designed by French architect Hector Guimard and installed in Paris in between 1900 and 1913, 86 are still standing today in the city and have been registered since 1978 as Monuments Historiques. The Gallery's acquisition was made possible by a gift from Robert P. and Arlene R. Kogod.

The Métropolitain Entrance (c.1900) will be on view at the three venues of the exhibition Art Nouveau, 1890-1914: Victoria and Albert Museum, London, April 6, through July 30, 2000; National Gallery of Art, Washington, October 8, 2000, through January 28, 2001; and Tokyo Metropolitan Museum, April 21, through July 8, 2001. Then the cast-iron entrance will be installed in front of the Art Nouveau revival pavilion (designed in 1988 by Charles Bassett) leading to the grand fountain and reflecting pool in the National Gallery of Art's Sculpture Garden in late 2001. The Métropolitain entrance measures approximately fourteen feet tall and twelve feet wide.

"Since their installation at the time of the 1900 Paris World Fair, Hector Guimard's entrances to the Paris Métropolitain have been a symbol of the Art Nouveau movement. Radical and remarkably original in their combination of ornament and structure, they are considered masterpieces of Art Nouveau," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art. "The famous work from the beginning of this century will delight visitors who pass through it on their way to eat in the pavilion restaurant, sit by the fountain, skate on the ice rink, or enjoy the post-World War II sculptures and landscaping throughout our Sculpture Garden."

A leading figure of Art Nouveau and modernism in France, Guimard was the first to create Art Nouveau designs in French architecture in 1893 and his Métro entrances are among his most famous creations. He exploited the versatility of the cast iron to produce highly original designs and conceived a standardized and modular system that could be adapted to the different sites in Paris, while allowing for aesthetic variations.

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The exhibition is made possible by **DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund**

Additional support is provided by the Terra Foundation for the Arts, Robert P. and Arlene R. Kogod, and Eleanor and Donald Taffner

Guimard's Métro entrances embody the principles of Art Nouveau in their graceful curvilinear design inspired by nature, notably the structural quality of the plant stem, and in the modernity of their fabrication. Due to the pervasiveness of these structures in Paris, the Art Nouveau movement was often called at the time Le Style Métro or Le Style Guimard.

In Washington, Art Nouveau, 1890-1914 is made possible by DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund.

Additional support for the exhibition is provided by the Terra Foundation for the Arts, Robert P. and Arlene R. Kogod, Eleanor and Donald Taffner, and the Fund for the International Exchange of Art. The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden, located on the National Mall between Third and Ninth Streets at Constitution Avenue, NW, are open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m and is closed December 25 and January 1. Admission is free of charge. For general information, call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (202) 842-6176 or visit the National Gallery of Art's Web site at www.nga.gov.

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