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## ***MATISSE'S MARGUERITE: MODEL DAUGHTER*** **OPENS AT THE BMA ON SEPTEMBER 18**

***More than 40 examples show Matisse's affection for his daughter  
and provide a rare glimpse into the artist's personal life***

**BALTIMORE, MD** (August 2, 2013)— The Baltimore Museum of Art presents a special exhibition of prints, drawings, paintings, and sculptures that provide a fascinating glimpse of Henri Matisse's relationship with his only daughter, Marguerite. On view **September 18, 2013 – January 19, 2014**, ***Matisse's Marguerite: Model Daughter*** brings together more than 40 works from the BMA and other public and private collections to show Marguerite over the course of 45 years. Matisse made more portraits of his daughter than of all the other members of his family combined. He often shows a strong personal absorption with the character of his daughter—and reveals something about himself in the process of creating his art.

The exhibition is organized by BMA Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs and Senior Curator of Prints, Drawings & Photographs Jay Fisher and presented in the Cone Collection galleries. The exhibition is generously sponsored by the Lacovara family in honor of Philip A. Lacovara.

"Matisse approached these portraits of Marguerite with an intimacy that's not necessarily seen in his other works," said Jay Fisher, BMA Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs. "Most of his models were often shown preoccupied, looking off into a different direction away from the viewer. They aren't as much the subject of the painting as they are in service to other artistic ideas. Matisse was much more direct and sensitive to Marguerite's features and character."

Born in 1894, Marguerite soon appears in sketches of a little girl of 6 or 7. By the time she was 12, she was a frequent participant in the life of his studio and would often take on important roles in major paintings. Many portraits of her were breakthrough works like *Marguerite* (1916) that reveal an advance in Matisse's artistic vision, but she also appeared in pictures of family life and with other models such as *Two Women in a Landscape, Vallée du Loup* (1922). Matisse brings much of himself and his own feelings to the portraits of his daughter. Sometimes she appears younger than she is, as if Matisse were reliving her childhood, and sometimes older, as if he were anticipating her aging.

Marguerite shielded her father from many of the distractions that could bring him away from his art. She was most often the contact to Matisse's collectors, including the renowned Baltimore sisters Claribel and Etta Cone. Etta, in particular, formed a close relationship with Marguerite, which is shown in the exhibition through a selection of letters and photographs. Marguerite also nurtured Matisse's legacy, providing scholars with insights about her father's techniques and masterworks. Upon his death, she took on the critical task of documenting the complete record of the artist's prints and sculptures, an endeavor that was continued by her son, Claude Duthuit, who was a BMA National Trustee before he passed away in 2011.

### **MATISSE AT THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART**

The BMA has the largest and most significant collection of works by Henri Matisse in the world with more than 1,000 works by the artist, including a comprehensive collection of prints and drawings, as well as 42 oil paintings, 22 sculptures, 21 books, two textiles, a ceramic vessel, and 34 copper plates from the artist's first illustrated book, *Poésies de Stéphane Mallarmé*. This extraordinary collection began with a gift of 600 Matisse works from Baltimore sisters Claribel and Etta Cone, who had visited the Paris studios of Matisse and Pablo Picasso in the early 20th century and began forming one of the world's greatest collections of modern art. Over the course of nearly 50 years, they assembled an exceptional collection of approximately 3,000 objects, which were displayed in their Baltimore apartments. Etta Cone met Matisse in 1906, and her initial purchase of several drawings marked the beginning of a life-long passion for his art that continued throughout his career. With masterworks such as Matisse's *Blue Nude* (1907) and *Large Reclining Nude* (1935), competition among museums for The Cone Collection began as early as 1940, but Claribel insisted that it go to The Baltimore Museum of Art if "the spirit of appreciation for modern art in Baltimore became improved." The collection came to the BMA upon Etta's death in 1949, and has been on view since 1957. The collection has been the subject of exhibitions at prestigious museums around the world and celebrated in Baltimore with redesigned and expanded galleries that include a dynamic touch-screen virtual tour of the apartments where the Cone sisters lived with their remarkable collection. In recent years, the BMA has conducted ground-breaking research on Matisse's sculpture and organized major traveling exhibitions with accompanying catalogues on Matisse's sculpture and prints.

### **ABOUT THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART**

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 90,000 works of art—including the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world. The BMA has a long tradition of collecting the art of the day, beginning with the Cone sisters, whose avid acquisitions from living artists signaled the Museum's commitment to collecting contemporary art. Other outstanding collections include European and American fine and decorative arts, 15th- through 19th-century prints and drawings, works by established and emerging contemporary artists, and objects from Africa, Asia, the Ancient Americas, and Pacific Islands. Two beautifully landscaped gardens display an array of 20th-century sculpture that is an oasis in the city. The Museum is located in the heart of Charles Village and adjacent to the main campus of The Johns Hopkins University. The BMA's building encompasses 210,000 square feet and is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope. Two beautifully landscaped gardens display an array of 20th-century sculpture that is an oasis in the city. Since 2006, the BMA has eliminated general admission fees so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

### **VISITOR INFORMATION**

General admission to the BMA is free. The BMA is open Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11a.m.-6p.m. (except major holidays). The Museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located on Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31<sup>st</sup> Streets, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit [artbma.org](http://artbma.org).