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## THE BMA'S MODERN MASTERS SERIES CONTINUES WITH BONNARD & VUILLARD

BALTIMORE, MD (March 18, 2008)—The Baltimore Museum of Art presents a luminous two-gallery exhibition of works by Pierre Bonnard and Édouard Vuillard—two modern masters whose experimental work inspired artists from Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec to Henri Matisse. On view **April 23 through October 19, 2008, Bonnard & Vuillard** features more than 30 works that explore the profound impact both Pierre Bonnard (1867–1947) and Édouard Vuillard (1868–1940) had on each other as they evolved from a late 19th-century interest in everyday life to a colorful exploration of domestic life in interior scenes into the 1930s.

The exhibition presents four paintings, three drawings, and over 30 lithographs, etchings, posters, and illustrated books drawn from the BMA's outstanding collection that showcase the change in style for both artists as they progressed through their artistic careers. Highlights include a series of six printer's proofs for *The Pastry Shop* by Vuillard that demonstrate the multi-step printing process for these highly complicated and innovative color prints, Bonnard's revolutionary poster from 1894 for the literary journal *La Revue blanche*, and his *Woman with Basket of Fruit*, which features dramatic compositional elements that are reminiscent of Japanese wood-block prints.



Pierre Bonnard. *Basket of Fruit*. 1924. The Baltimore Museum of Art: Partial and promised gift of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony W. Deering, Baltimore, BMA 2005.141. ©Pierre Bonnard/Artists Rights Society, New York/ADAGP, Paris

Bonnard and Vuillard met in art school in the 1880s and became lifelong friends. Like many artists in Paris at the turn of the century, they moved beyond Impressionism to embrace a more complex style of visual communication. In 1889, Bonnard and Vuillard became important members of the *Nabis*, a group of young artists inspired by the work of Paul Gauguin and Japanese prints who experimented with flat, patterned surfaces, arbitrary color, and expressive line in their paintings and works on paper. Bonnard was the member most fascinated with Japanese art, and worked easily in a variety of mediums, particularly color lithographs, posters, theater programs, and book illustrations where his striking simplifications of form and his bold use of bright colors were at their best. Vuillard was involved with various theater projects as a young artist, designing costumes, scenery, and programs for many performances.

*Bonnard & Vuillard* is curated by BMA Curator of European Painting & Sculpture Katy Rothkopf.

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## **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. Throughout the Museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of 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. As a major cultural destination for the greater Baltimore region, the BMA organizes and presents a variety of dynamic exhibitions and innovative programs throughout the year, and frequently hosts special events with cultural and educational partners. The Museum is located in a park-like setting in the heart of Charles Village and adjacent to the main campus of The Johns Hopkins University. It is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope with an impressive wing for contemporary art added in 1994.

## **VISITOR INFORMATION**

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

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