



January 2008

### **Brooklyn Museum European Paintings To Be Temporarily Off View During Renewal of Floor of Beaux-Arts Court**

The Brooklyn Museum's presentation of selections from its holdings of European paintings, which include works by Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, Paul Cézanne, Camille Corot, Pablo Picasso, and Henri Matisse, will be deinstalled in January 2008 and will remain off view to allow for a capital project that will renew the century-old floor of the Museum's Beaux-Arts Court. The collection will be reinstalled at a later date.

Since 2003 European paintings have been displayed in the third-floor Court, considered by many to be the architectural heart of the Museum's landmark building designed in the late nineteenth-century by McKim, Mead & White. The two-story-high, colonnaded space features a soaring skylight, arched overlooks on the floor above, and an ambulatory at the perimeter of a 10,000-square-foot central floor composed of terrazzo and glass block.

The floor of the Court will be replaced with new terrazzo and structural glass that will provide visual access to the original glass block, which also serves as the ceiling of the Hall of the Americas on the floor below. The block allows radiant light from the Hall to suffuse the floor of the Beaux-Arts Court, while at the same time permitting light from the Court to filter through to the first floor. New steel supports will overlay existing beams and a grid will be created of precast terrazzo, into which the structural glass will be set. Provisions will be made for better handicapped accessibility from the ambulatory around the perimeter to the main floor. The project, which will begin in January and conclude in the early fall of 2008, marks the last step in a phased renovation of the Beaux-Arts Court, which began nearly a decade ago with the replacement of the skylight.

The floor replacement project is funded by a grant from the State of New York.

The Beaux-Arts Court has also been the site of the dance party component of *Target First Saturdays*, the Museum's popular monthly program of free art and entertainment. For the duration of the project, the dance party will move to another location in the Museum.

End

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