

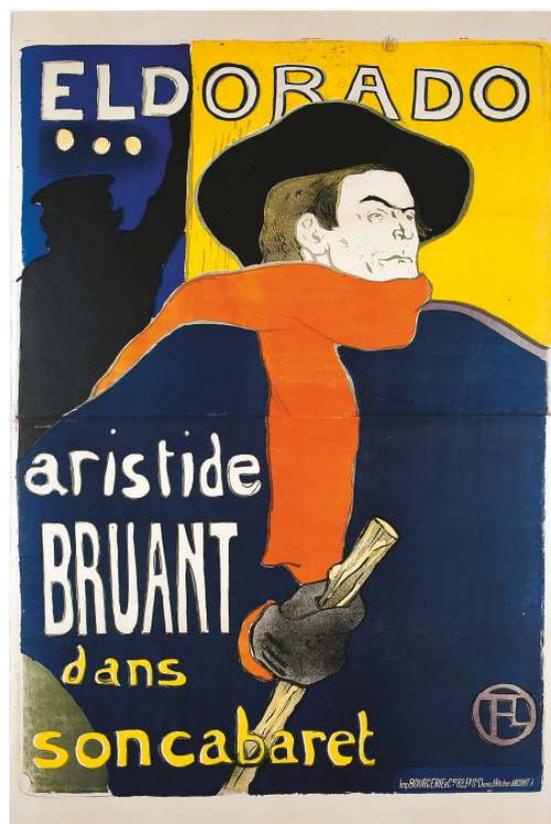


BRUCE MUSEUM
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Press Release

In the Limelight: Toulouse-Lautrec Portraits from the Herakleidon Museum

Bruce Museum, Greenwich, Connecticut
September 23, 2017 – January 7, 2018



Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (French, 1864-1901), *Eldorado, Aristide Bruant dans son Cabaret*, 1892.
Color lithograph, 1380 x 960 mm.

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GREENWICH, CT, August 23, 2017 – A fascination with the spectacle, nightlife, and the tawdry side of celebrity culture is hardly a recent phenomenon. The artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (1864 – 1901) is famed for his images, created more than a century ago, of entertainers in the cabarets, dance halls, theaters and brothels of Paris.

Beginning September 23, 2017, the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, CT, will present the major exhibition *In the Limelight: Toulouse-Lautrec Portraits from the Herakleidon Museum*, which showcases the artist's portraits of the dancers, singers and other performers who became the icons of the Parisian nightlife in the late 19th century. Featuring 100 drawings, prints, and posters (approximately half of the Herakleidon Museum's extensive collection of Toulouse-Lautrec works on paper), the exhibition explores the relationship between portraiture, caricature, and rise of the cult of celebrity in Belle Époque Paris.

Lautrec wanted to show life as it is, not as it should be, but his objectivity was not without empathy or humor. His interest lay in portraying people, not only those he met during his nights on the town, including Sarah Bernhardt, Jane Avril, and Aristide Bruant, but also his friends and the working-class citizens of Paris.

"As a longtime friend of many of the celebrities he depicted, Lautrec was uniquely able to appreciate the hollowing effects of celebrity," notes exhibition curator Mia Laufer, PhD candidate (Washington University in Saint Louis) and former Zvi Grunberg Resident Fellow at the Bruce Museum (2015-2016). "He used portraiture to comment on the absurdity and excess of bohemian life. Lautrec could see through the guise of their public personas."

Lautrec was also the subject himself of attention around the Parisian community of Montmartre when he moved there in 1885 and immersed himself in its nightlife. Visiting popular cafés concerts night after night, always sitting at the same table specially reserved for him, Lautrec was viewed by many as just another odd character on the scene. Because of Lautrec's unusual appearance, he too created a public persona that masked a more complex interior. The self-conscious artist often resorted to outlandish behavior, preferring to be known for his biting wit, elaborate dinner parties, entertaining costumes, strong cocktails, and drunken extravagance, rather than for his appearance. He was only 4 feet 11 inches tall, having broken both legs at an early age, and died at age 36 from the ravages of syphilis and alcoholism, but he became famous, above all, for his advertising posters and portraits of personalities of the day.

In the Limelight: Toulouse-Lautrec Portraits from the Herakleidon Museum will be on view through January 7, 2018. The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT, is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm. For more information, call the Bruce Museum at 203-869-0376 or visit brucemuseum.org.

Curators and Sponsors

In the Limelight: Toulouse-Lautrec Portraits from the Herakleidon Museum, a single source exhibition provided by PAN Art Connections Inc. www.pan-art-connections.com, is organized by the Bruce Museum, Greenwich, Connecticut. The works are on loan from the collection of Herakleidon Museum, Athens, Greece (www.herakleidon-art.gr). The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue, featuring a scholarly essay by the curator Mia Laufer, PhD candidate (Washington University in Saint Louis) and former Zvi Grunberg Resident Fellow at the Bruce Museum (2015-2016), acknowledgments by Peter C. Sutton, The Susan E. Lynch Executive Director of the Bruce Museum, and a foreword by Paul Firos, founder of the Herakleidon Museum.

In the Limelight: Toulouse-Lautrec Portraits from the Herakleidon Museum is sponsored by The Charles M. and Deborah G. Royce Exhibition Fund, the Florence Gould Foundation, a Committee of Honor, and Connecticut Office of the Arts.

Related Programs

In addition to the Bruce Museum's regularly scheduled adult tours, school programs, and hands-on in-gallery family activities, special public programming to complement this exhibition will include lecture and film series outlined below. The show will also be a focus for visitors of special groups including the Museum's Lifetime of Looking program for guests with memory loss, and our community partner program through Abilis for visitors with developmental disabilities.

Afternoon and Evening Art Lectures

September 24, 3:30 – 4:30 pm. Curator's Talk.

The Life and Art of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec by exhibition curator Mia Laufer, PhD candidate, Washington University, Saint Louis. Registration required; limited seating. Reservations at brucemuseum.org/site/events. Bruce Museum members free; nonmembers \$10 (includes Museum admission).

October 10, 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Evening Art Lecture.

Toulouse-Lautrec and the Culture of Celebrity by Jay Clarke, PhD, Manton Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs, The Clark Art Institute
Dr. Clarke will consider how the culture of celebrity fueled Toulouse-Lautrec's work. The entertainment industry in turn-of-the-century Paris was a subject of great interest for artists and entrepreneurs. Toulouse-Lautrec, more than any of his contemporaries, was able to capture and market this imagery to a broad audience hungry for images of Montmartre nightlife. Reception and open galleries at 6:00 pm; Lecture begins promptly at 6:30 pm. Advance registration by October 9 at brucemuseum.org/site/events: Museum members free, nonmembers \$15. At the door: Museum members \$10, nonmembers \$25.

November 9, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Evening Art Lecture.

Art Nouveau and the Cinema by Lucy Fischer, Distinguished Professor of English and Film Studies, University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Fischer will consider the vision of woman in Art Nouveau discourse, which was considered a highly “feminine” style. She will focus on the films of the era that incorporated elements of Art Nouveau into their design, narrative, and portrayal of women. Reception and open galleries at 6:00 pm; Lecture begins promptly at 6:30 pm. Advance registration by November 7 at brucemuseum.org/site/events: Museum members free, nonmembers \$15. At the door: Museum members \$10, nonmembers \$25.

Monday Morning Lecture Series

Members free, nonmembers \$10 (includes Museum admission). Galleries will be open for 1 hour following each lecture. Registration required; limited seating. Reservations at brucemuseum.org/site/events

Monday, October 2, 10:00 – 11:00 am.

Allegorical Satires from the Late Second Empire

Maxime Valsamas, PhD candidate in Art History, Washington University, St. Louis, will focus primarily on Honoré Daumier’s use of allegorical satires to comment on French politics and crises on the European continent in the late 1860s and 1870s.

Monday, October 16, 10:00 – 11:00 am.

From the Asylum to the Opera: Toulouse-Lautrec’s Last Works in Context

Cora Michael, PhD, will talk about some of the very last paintings ever created by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. Made during a period of extreme personal crisis, these works offer insight into the role art played as a means of self-expression and salvation.

Monday, October 23, 10:00 – 11:00 am.

“Yvette Guilbert”: A Fin-de-Siècle Collaborative Album

Ashley Dunn, Assistant Curator in the Department of Drawings and Prints, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, studies 19th-century French visual culture with a particular focus on prints. She is currently completing her dissertation titled “Graphic Paris: A Study of Urban Etching, 1850-1880,” which analyzes how the material and formal aspects of the etching medium fostered its practitioners’ responsiveness to the cityscape during an era of rapid renovation and modernization. Dunn received an MA with distinction in 2009 from the University of Oxford, where her thesis examined Toulouse-Lautrec’s “Yvette Gilbert” folio of lithographs as a collaborative object.

Monday, October 30, 10:00 – 11:00 am.

Celebrity in Full Color: Posters, Prints, and Drawings by Toulouse-Lautrec

Laura Kalba, Associate Professor of Art, Smith College, will explore how working at the intersection of popular commercial culture and high art, Toulouse-Lautrec simultaneously contributed to and challenged the myth of Paris as a city filled with beauty, music, and countless other sensory delights.

Wednesday Morning Film Series

October 25; November 1, 8, 15, 10:30 – 11:30 am.

**Registration required at brucemuseum.org/site/events; limited seating.
Free to members, nonmembers \$10 (includes museum admission).**

The Great Artists: The Post-Impressionists

This film series chronicles the lives, times and works of the men whose genius has captivated the art world for generations. Informative and entertaining, the series highlights important events in each artist’s life, explores their stylistic trademarks, and provides detailed explanations of their techniques. The Great Artists also features expert



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commentary and analyses from leading authorities, art historians and scholars, and new location footage. The programs in this series feature an in-depth look at the Post-Impressionists.

Wednesday, October 25: Paul Cézanne

Wednesday, November 1: Paul Gauguin

Wednesday, November 8: Vincent Van Gogh

Wednesday, November 15: Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec

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