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UPDATED RELEASE

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THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION KICKS OFF A YEAR OF 90TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES WITH A GRAND REOPENING

90 Years of New: FREE Weekend

Jan. 15, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Jan. 16, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Featuring the grand reopening of the newly renovated Phillips house, birthday cake designs by some of D.C.'s finest pastry chefs, complimentary champagne, and more. For details, read below.

Washington, D.C.— In 2011, The Phillips Collection celebrates its 90th anniversary and launches the countdown to its centennial, beginning with a free weekend on Jan. 15 and 16 and marking the end of the year with an anniversary birthday bash on Nov. 5. Special installations and programs throughout the year debut stunning new acquisitions in contemporary art, engage artists in conversation with the collection, and tell the story of artistic innovation at the heart of the museum since Duncan Phillips opened its doors in 1921.

FREE WEEKEND

The Jan. 15–16 free weekend heralds the joyful reopening of the original Phillips house, closed for repair after a fire in early September. The Phillips welcomes visitors back to its intimate galleries where a spectacular new installation of masterworks from the permanent collection is on view, along with a special installation of Sir Howard Hodgkin's most ambitious work to date, *As Time Goes By* (2009). Comprising starbursts of vibrant color, the two 20-foot-long, hand-painted etchings were recently acquired for the Phillips's permanent collection. Turner Prize winner Hodgkin had his first American exhibition at the Phillips in 1984.

Work-of-art birthday cake designs by pastry chefs Rebekka Baltzell (Restaurant Eve), Rick Billings (ThinkFoodGroup), Peter Brett (Blue Duck Tavern), Warren Brown (Cake Love), Susan Gage (Susan Gage Catering), Chris Kujala (RIS), Travis Olson (1789), Melanie Parker (701), and Tom Wellings (Equinox) inspired by artworks in the Phillips will be on display for one weekend only. Visitors vote for their favorite by donating \$1 in support of Phillips education programs. The celebration continues in the museum's café by FoodArts, where visitors 21 and over will enjoy complimentary champagne while supplies last.

Free tours throughout the weekend provide insight into art on view. Fast-paced “relay tours” spotlight 90 works of art in back-to-back talks, ten minutes each—visitors can take in one or all, depending on their art appreciation stamina. For guests seeking a self-guided experience, the Phillips debuts a “things to do in 90 minutes” brochure. In the 90th Anniversary Reading Room, photographs, letters, and other archival materials will show how museum founder Duncan Phillips shaped, in his own words, “an intimate museum combined with an experiment station.” Visitors can also enjoy art-related films and the exhibition *Side by Side: Oberlin’s Masterworks at the Phillips* on its final weekend.

90 YEARS OF NEW

In 1921, Duncan Phillips opened America’s first museum of modern art in his home, inviting visitors to get comfortable with the often challenging art and artists of his day. Ninety years on, visitors continue to forge personal connections with contemporary art and surprising combinations of modern masterpieces in the Phillips’s intimate galleries.

“From the start, the Phillips has been a place of tremendous risk-taking with an innovative approach to thinking about art and culture,” said Director Dorothy Kosinski. “The 90th anniversary gives us an opportunity to renew and invigorate that spirit of open-minded, interdisciplinary, and collaborative inquiry as we begin to count down to the museum’s 100th birthday.”

The Phillips celebrates many of its astonishing “firsts” in special installations throughout 2011 under the “90 Years of New” moniker. D.C.-based artist Sam Gilliam, who had his first solo show at the Phillips in 1967, creates a new site-specific work for the museum’s signature, elliptical stairway, which he calls “a beautiful, curved frame.” A monumental series of 13 works by Augustus Vincent Tack, which in 1928 was the first abstract commission of the artist, is reinstalled in the wood-paneled Music Room for which it was originally created. The Phillips recreates its Klee Room, which opened in 1948 as the first room dedicated exclusively to Paul Klee’s work by a museum. To culminate the year, Pierre Auguste Renoir’s beloved celebration of light and color, *Luncheon of the Boating Party* (1880–81), makes a triumphant return to its original location, the first gallery in his home that Duncan Phillips opened to the public in 1921. It will be displayed with other works acquired over the museum’s first decade. Guests will toast these and other Phillips firsts at the Nov. 5 birthday bash.

ANNIVERSARY INSTALLATIONS

<i>90 Years of New: Anniversary Reading Room</i>	Jan. 8–Dec. 31, 2011
<i>90 Years of New: Howard Hodgkin’s As Time Goes By</i>	Jan. 8–May 8, 2011
<i>90 Years of New: Sam Gilliam</i>	Jan. 29–April 24, 2011
<i>90 Years of New: Tack’s Music Room</i>	May 7–Dec. 31, 2011
<i>90 Years of New: Gifts from the Heather and Tony Podesta Collection</i>	June 16–Oct. 2, 2011
<i>90 Years of New: Morris Louis</i>	July 14–Oct. 9, 2011
<i>90 Years of New: Renoir’s Luncheon of the Boating Party and European Masterworks</i>	Sept. 2–Dec. 31, 2011
<i>90 Years of New: The Klee Room</i>	Sept. 29–Dec. 31, 2011
<i>90 Years of New: Joseph Marioni</i>	Oct. 20, 2011–Jan. 29, 2012

The Phillips's Center for the Study of Modern Art will serve as the hub for many of the museum's 90th anniversary activities. Milestones include dynamic new partnerships with The George Washington University and the University of Virginia, a major fall symposium on the evolution of private collections to public institutions, and the launch of Creative Voices D.C., a series focused on Washington's vibrant creative community to compliment the museums ongoing, internationally focused Conversations with Artists series.

Featured exhibitions during 2011 include: *David Smith Invents* and *Philip Guston, Roma* (Feb. 12–May 15, 2011); *Kandinsky and the Harmony of Silence: Painting with White Border* and *Stella Sounds: The Scarlatti K Series* (June 11–Sept. 4, 2011); and *Degas's Dancers at the Barre: Point and Counterpoint* (Oct. 1, 2011–Jan. 8, 2012). Intersections contemporary art series features projects by Jae Ko (through Feb. 20, 2011), Regi Müller (through May 1, 2011), Nicholas and Sheila Pye (Feb. 17–May 8, 2011), Balasubramanian (May 19–Oct. 30, 2011), and Allan deSouza (June 23–Sept. 25, 2011).

SPONSORS

WETA, the flagship public broadcasting station in the nation's capital, is the media partner for the 90 Years of New: Free Weekend, Jan. 15–16. WETA is a destination for classical music and television shows that inspire and entertain, including new programs this January from *Masterpiece*, *NOVA*, and *Nature*, and ongoing favorites *Doc Martin*, *Sherlock*, *Poirot*, and *Prime Suspect*.

WETA Television and Classical WETA 90.9 FM are public broadcasting stations serving the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia with high-quality programming. Classical WETA 90.9 FM brings classical music, concerts, and specials to Greater Washington. WETA Television celebrates the people and history of this region through programs such as *WETA Around Town* and *WETA Extras*. For national PBS audiences, WETA produces *PBS NewsHour*, *Washington Week with Gwen Ifill*, and *National Journal*, history films by Ken Burns including *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, and performance specials, including the *In Performance at the White House* and *The Kennedy Center Mark Twain Prize for American Humor* series. Embracing the educational mission of public broadcasting, WETA creates leading public service Web sites such as *ReadingRockets.org*, *LDOnline.org*, and *Brainline.org* and develops community outreach programs to engage people of all ages in the joy of lifelong learning. WETA's headquarters are located in Arlington, Virginia. Sharon Percy Rockefeller is president and CEO. More information on WETA and its programs and services is available at weta.org.

Additional support for the 90 Years of New: Free Weekend is provided by Aon Huntington Block Insurance.

ABOUT THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION

The Phillips Collection is one of the world's most distinguished collections of impressionist and modern American and European art. Stressing the continuity between art of the past and present, it offers a strikingly original and experimental approach to modern art by combining works of different nationalities and periods in displays that change frequently. The setting is similarly unconventional, featuring small rooms, a domestic scale, and a personal atmosphere. Artists represented in the collection include Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Vincent van

Gogh, Edgar Degas, Henri Matisse, Pierre Bonnard, Paul Cézanne, Pablo Picasso, Paul Klee, Claude Monet, Honoré Daumier, Georgia O’Keeffe, Arthur Dove, Mark Rothko, Milton Avery, Jacob Lawrence, and Richard Diebenkorn, among others. The Phillips Collection, America’s first museum of modern art, has an active collecting program and regularly organizes acclaimed special exhibitions, many of which travel internationally. The Intersections series features projects by contemporary artists, responding to art and spaces in the museum. The Phillips also produces award-winning education programs for K–12 teachers and students, as well as for adults. The museum’s Center for the Study of Modern Art explores new ways of thinking about art and the nature of creativity, through artist visits and lectures, and provides a forum for scholars through courses, post-doctoral fellowships, and internships. Since 1941, the museum has hosted Sunday Concerts in its wood-paneled Music Room. The Phillips Collection is a private, non-government museum, supported primarily by donations.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Phillips Collection is located in the heart of Washington’s historic Dupont Circle neighborhood, at 1600 21st Street, NW, near the Dupont Circle Metro (Q Street exit). Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursdays until 8:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Mondays and New Year’s Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

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