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**Denver Art Museum to Present in 2007**  
***Artisans & Kings: Selected Treasures from the Louvre***  
**DAM Exclusive Venue in Western U.S. for Exhibition**

**DENVER, September 19, 2006** —The Denver Art Museum today announced that it will host *Artisans & Kings: Selected Treasures from the Louvre* from October 6, 2007–January 6, 2008, as the first international exhibition in the new Frederic C. Hamilton Building. The Museum will present an array of masterworks including mainly decorative arts such as Gobelin's 1775 tapestry *The Loves of the Gods, Vertume and Pomone* and a selection of Sèvres porcelain, completed by sculptures, antiquities, paintings and drawings by Rubens, Titian, Velazquez and Dürer, among others. A number of these works will have already been presented at the High Museum of Art of Atlanta in spring 2007.

Henri Loyrette, director of the Louvre, explains that "a major component of the Louvre's strategy is to fulfill our universal vocation as completely as we can, while at the same time renewing it." It seems "especially natural for us to turn to the United States, with whom we have very special, longstanding ties."

"We are thrilled to work with the Louvre to bring these masterpieces to the Western U.S. for the first time," said Denver Art Museum director Lewis Sharp. "The expanded Denver Art Museum complex enables us to showcase the best artwork from around the world. We are delighted to kick off our traveling exhibition program with a show of this caliber."

This exhibition will serve as a learning opportunity for all involved and enhance knowledge-sharing for the future.

*Artisans & Kings: Selected Treasures from the Louvre*, tells the intriguing stories of Paris' artisans and kings through decorative arts, sculptures, paintings, antiquities and drawings from the reigns of Louis XIV, XV and XVI. These Royal Collections became the core of the Louvre's holdings and the three monarchs played a pivotal role in what is considered the greatest period of development for French decorative arts. The exhibition draws on the breadth of the Louvre's holdings and showcases this material in a way not possible in the Louvre's massive permanent collections.

The Denver Art Museum is nearly doubling the size of its facility with the 146,000-square-foot addition of the Frederic C. Hamilton Building scheduled to open October 7, 2006. The Hamilton Building will add more than 20,000 square feet of temporary exhibition space, where this Louvre exhibition will debut in fall 2007. This expanded exhibition space has given the DAM the opportunity to take on such a major initiative, and will be the only venue in the West to host the Louvre's collections.

### **Denver Art Museum**

Founded in 1893, the Denver Art Museum is one of the largest art museums between Chicago and the West Coast, with more than 60,000 works of art from around the world in its collection. The Museum's holdings include an internationally renowned American Indian art collection, outstanding architecture, graphics and design galleries, Asian, Pre-Columbian, and Spanish Colonial galleries. Architect Gio Ponti of Italy designed the Denver Art Museum's current striking North Building—a work of art in itself. Daniel Libeskind designed the new Frederic C. Hamilton Building, which will open on October 7, 2006. For images, please visit <http://images.denverartmuseum.org>. For more information on the Denver Art Museum and the expansion, please visit [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org).

### **Musée du Louvre**

The Louvre castle, in its successive architectural metamorphoses, has dominated central Paris since the late 12th century. Built on the city's western edge, the original structure was gradually engulfed as the city grew. The dark fortress of the early days was transformed into the modernized dwelling of François I and, later, the sumptuous palace of the Sun King, Louis XIV. The Museum Central was created in 1793. Today the Musée du Louvre has a universal appeal, drawing over seven million visitors a year.

With 35,000 works on display, the Musée du Louvre presents collections of western art from the Middle Ages up to 1848, and the antique civilizations that have preceded and influenced this art. They are divided into eight departments: Oriental Antiquities, Arts of Islam, Egyptian Antiquities, Greek, Etruscan and Roman Antiquities, Paintings, Drawings and Prints, Sculptures and Decorative Arts. Celebrated works in the collections include da Vinci's *La Gioconda*, also known as the *Mona Lisa*, Michel-Angelo's *Slaves*; Egyptian antiquities such as the *Seated Scribe* and the *Code of Hammurabi*; and Greek antiquities such as the *Winged Victory of Samothrace* and the *Venus de Milo*. For more information, please visit [www.louvre.fr](http://www.louvre.fr).

For information on the Louvre Atlanta initiative, visit [www.high.org](http://www.high.org).

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