

North Carolina Museum of Art

PICASSO PORTRAIT IS AMONG FOUR WORKS BY MAJOR EUROPEAN ARTISTS PROMISED TO NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART BY JOSIE AND JULIAN ROBERTSON

*Portrait of Françoise Gilot will be on view when new Museum building opens in April;
promised gift includes works by Sisley, Vlaminck, and Nolde*

For Immediate Release—Raleigh, NC, February 23, 2010.... **Lawrence J. Wheeler,** Director, North Carolina Museum of Art, today announced a promised gift to the Museum from the collection of **Josie and Julian Robertson**, of New York. The gift includes **four paintings by important European Impressionist and modern artists.** In addition to **Picasso's *Seated Woman, Red and Yellow Background*** (1952), they are *The Bridge at Moret on an April Morning* (1888), by **Alfred Sisley**; *The Bridge at Poissy* (1905), by **Maurice de Vlaminck**; and *Fishing Boat (Red Sky)* (1916), by **Emil Nolde**. The first of the promised works to be on public view will be Picasso's superb portrait of his lover Françoise Gilot, which will be installed in the Museum's new building when it opens on April 24.

Dr. Wheeler states, "The North Carolina Museum of Art is elated to receive this generous promised gift from the Robertsons. These works, by major School of Paris painters, will both fill a gap in and beautifully complement the Museum's collection, enabling it to present more fully the story of the birth of modern art."

Julian Robertson, a native of Salisbury, NC, and a graduate of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, adds, "I grew up in North Carolina, graduated from the University of North Carolina, and continue to have deep ties to the state. Josie and I are



Pablo Picasso, *Seated Woman, Red and Yellow Background*, 1952, enamel on composition board, 49 3/16 x 31 7/8 in., Promised gift of Mr. and Mrs. Julian H. Robertson, Jr., © 2010 Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

thrilled to know that North Carolinians will get to know and enjoy these pictures as much as we have.”

Picasso’s visually complex, expressive portrait of Gilot was painted at the end of their turbulent relationship. Gilot sits in a studio chair, hand cradling her chin, eyes wandering. But within the rectangle of the painting, she remains very much Picasso’s subject, the pretext for a virtuosic performance of the artist’s compositional and technical brilliance.

“While the North Carolina Museum of Art is known for its strong group of modern German paintings, it never had comparable School of Paris works,” notes John Coffey, the Museum’s Deputy Director for Art. “The promised gift of these wonderful pictures ensures that the Museum will have a solid representation of French modernists, including the exceptionally vivid portrait by Picasso—the first work by this artist to enter the Museum’s collection.”

About the North Carolina Museum of Art

With a permanent collection that spans more than 5,000 years of history, from ancient Egypt to the present day, the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) is among the leading art museums in the southeastern United States. Through a diverse roster of exhibitions, public programs for adults and children, films, and concerts, the Museum provides educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The Museum campus includes the 164-acre Museum Park—with public trails and parkland containing major works of art—as well as a 2,700 seat outdoor amphitheater.

The NCMA is currently closed in preparation for the opening of its new gallery building on April 24, 2010. Designed by the celebrated architecture firm of Thomas Phifer and Partners, New York, this will provide a greatly expanded, light-filled home for the display of works from the Museum’s permanent collection.

About Josie and Julian Robertson

Julian Robertson, founder of Tiger Management LLC—one of the world’s foremost hedge funds—and Josie Robertson are long-time boosters of North Carolina. The Robertson’s have provided support for an array of charitable entities through their

individual giving, as well as through the Robertson Foundation and other affiliated foundations. In North Carolina, they created The Robertson Scholars Program in 2000 through a \$24 million gift to Duke and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Inspired by one Robertson son who graduated from Duke and another who graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill, the scholarship is designed to encourage increased collaboration between the two universities.

Mr. Robertson is a trustee emeritus of The Rockefeller University and a trustee of the Wildlife Conservation Society and Environmental Defense. He is also on the board of directors of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and a member of the national board of advisors of the Children's Scholarship Fund. Since 1976, he has served as a vice chairman of the Cancer Research Institute.

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The North Carolina Museum of Art, Lawrence J. Wheeler, director, is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. It is the Art Museum of the State of North Carolina, Beverly Eaves Perdue, governor, and an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, Linda A. Carlisle, secretary. The Museum is currently closed in preparation for the opening of the new gallery building in April 2010. Visit the NCMA's Web site at www.ncartmuseum.org.

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