

NATIONAL GALLERY REUNITES MANET PAINTINGS THAT WERE ONCE PART OF ONE LARGER CANVAS



Edouard Manet, *At the Café*, 1878, oil on canvas, 78 x 84 cm, Oskar Reinhart Collection 'Am Römerholz', Winterthur.



Edouard Manet, *Corner of a Café Concert*, 1878-80, oil on canvas, 97.1 x 77.5 cm, The National Gallery, London.

From 30 May 2025, as part of the celebrations for the National Gallery's bicentenary, Manet's *Corner of a Café-Concert* (1878-80) is reunited with *At the Café* (1878), generously lent by the Oskar Reinhart Collection 'Am Römerholz' in Winterthur, Switzerland. Not seen together since the successful exhibition held at Oskar Reinhart collection 'Am Römerholz' in 2005/6, the paintings have been exceptionally reframed in custom made frames showing the edges of the canvases.

These two pictures originally formed part of a larger composition known as *Reichshoffen* – the name of a popular Parisian brasserie and café-concert. Manet, a keen observer of modern life, painted a snapshot view of its interior, with a singer on stage performing in the background.

In December 1877 the painting was on his easel, almost finished. 'The whole thing was full of splendid qualities', recalled a contemporary witness, 'and the artist's shortcomings were barely noticeable'. Yet, shortly after, Manet cut the canvas in two, significantly reworking both fragments as individual pictures. Most alterations appear in the backgrounds, where he added a glass window (in *At the Café*, left); and a dancer accompanied by an orchestra (in *Corner of a Café-Concert*, right). Despite their seeming spontaneity, the paintings were meticulously constructed and based on a large number of drawings.

The collector Oskar Reinhart was able to acquire *At the Café* in 1953 after 30 years of relentless effort, while *Corner of a Café-Concert* entered the National Gallery's collection in 1924, the same year as Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*. Its price was almost eight times higher.

The Gallery is extremely honoured that the Oskar Reinhart collection 'Am Römerholz' has loaned this work while they refurbish their own museum. *At the Café* and *Corner of a Café Concert* will be the focus of a special display in room 41, where they will be on view for several months during *C C Land: The Wonder of Art* at the Gallery. This

redisplay of the National Gallery's free-to-access collection has been critically acclaimed since it opened on 10 May, the anniversary of the Gallery's founding.

PHOTOCALL / FILMING/ INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY

Please contact press.external@nationalgallery.org.uk

Notes to Editors

The National Gallery is one of the greatest art galleries in the world. Founded by Parliament in 1824, the Gallery houses the nation's collection of paintings in the Western European tradition from the late 13th to the early 20th century. The collection includes works by Bellini, Cezanne, Degas, Leonardo, Monet, Raphael, Rembrandt, Renoir, Rubens, Titian, Turner, Van Dyck, Van Gogh and Velázquez. The Gallery's key objectives are to enhance the collection, care for the collection and provide the best possible access to visitors. Admission free. More at nationalgallery.org.uk

On 10 May 2024 the National Gallery was 200 years old, and we started our Bicentenary celebrations, a year-long festival of art, creativity and imagination, marking two centuries of bringing people and paintings together.

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