



## FRIENDS *of* FLORENCE

September 12, 2023

Dear Friends,

This special edition of our newsletter is a cordial invitation to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York this fall to see the exhibition [Manet/Degas](#) co-organized with Musées d'Orsay et de l'Orangerie, Paris, where it was presented this summer. On view September 24, 2023, through January 7, 2024, *Manet/Degas* features more than 150 paintings and works on paper by these two innovative artists—who were friends as well as rivals. The selection examines how their practices both diverged and intersected while helping to define modern painting in 19th-century France.



Edgar Degas *Portrait de Famille* (the Bellelli Family) 1858-1869. Oil on canvas, H. 201 x L. 249.5 cm. ©C2RMF/Thomas Clot

An exhibition highlight is Edgar Degas' *Family Portrait* from the Musée d'Orsay which our Friends of Florence's Monet trip participants encountered at the Paris museum last year. The magnificent *Portrait de Famille* (the Bellelli Family) was inspired by the artist's time in Florence where he stayed with family members from summer 1858 through spring 1859. To be included in the traveling exhibition, the

portrait needed attention from conservators.

Thanks to generous support from Janet and Jim Dicke II, in agreement with the American Friends Musées d'Orsay et de l'Orangerie, our Foundation enabled the restoration. Musée d'Orsay kindly granted permission for us to share a video of the meticulous conservation process with you [here](#).



The large-scale work (over 6 by 8 feet) depicts Degas's aunt Laure de Gas, her husband, Baron Gennaro Bellelli, and his young cousins Giovanna and Giulia. The portrait reveals tension between his aunt, who was mourning her father's recent death (his portrait is on the wall behind her), and uncle, who had been exiled to Florence from Naples. His pose, seated with his back to the viewer, is telling.

The exhibition's chief curator is Laurence des Cars, Director, the Louvre Museum. The curatorial team includes Isolde Pludermarcher, General Curator of Painting at the Musée d'Orsay; Stéphane Guégan, scientific advisor to the president of the Musées d'Orsay and l'Orangerie; and Stephan Wolohojian, John Pope-Hennessy Curator in Charge of the Department of European Paintings at the Met.

We do hope you will visit the exhibition and let us know your thoughts. Grazie!

Saluti,

*Simonetta*

Simonetta Brandolini d'Adda  
President, Friends of Florence



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