

## **Shaping Vision: Impressionism to Abstract Expressionism**

These galleries highlight the museum's notable collection of works by modern artists in Europe and the Americas. Augmented by key loans, the exhibition offers an overview of historic developments from the late nineteenth century to Post WWII. During this period, artists pioneered new aesthetic languages that called attention to the perceptual codes underlying visual experience. In the innovative explorations of the Impressionists, for example, depictions of everyday, bourgeois life rendered in obvious brush strokes and colorful palettes earned them the scorn of critics during their day but are now much beloved.

Subsequent creative movements ushered in a rapid series of experiments that are now associated with the story of art in Europe and the Americas during the twentieth century. Each movement built on its predecessors and pushed the boundaries of acceptable methods. Commencing with Impressionism, this history may be traced through Post-Impressionism, Surrealism and Dada, and Abstraction – including Geometric, Expressionist, and Post-Painterly modes. *Shaping Vision* explores the representational strategies identified with these evolutionary practices and their inventive approaches to artistic interpretation.

In addition, the works on view here represent a history of giving that has shaped Palm Springs Art Museum's collection of modern art. In the 1960s, a group of renowned art patrons with winter residences in the Palm Springs area initiated a gifting program to establish the museum's holdings. These supporters – Leonore and Walter Annenberg, Lionel Bauman, Joseph H. Hirshhorn, Raymond Loewy, Walter N. Marks, Seymour Oppenheimer, and Lucile and Ted Weiner – solicited friends for significant donations reflecting the art of their time. In subsequent years, generous donors continued to contribute major works by modern artists. Gwendolyn Weiner, in particular, has maintained her parents' legacy of donations and long-term lending to enrich the collection.

This exhibition is organized by Daniell Cornell, Artistic Director.