



# DOUANIER ROUSSEAU: Painter's Paradise Lost

## PRESS RELEASE

# The First Exhibition of the Douanier Rousseau in the Czech Republic

The National Gallery in Prague in cooperation with the Paris Musée d'Orsay organises the first exhibition of Henri Rousseau in the history of the Czech Republic. The iconic works of art of the famous painter of the naïve style will be displayed face to face with the paintings of other great representatives of world and domestic art – Paul Cézanne, Pablo Picasso, Max Ernst, Toyen, Emil Filla, and Josef Šíma. The exhibition *Douanier Rousseau: Painter's Lost Paradise* will be launched at Kinsky Palace on the Old Town Square on 15 September.

*'Henri Rousseau has a special position in the Czech milieu. The first reason is that Douanier's most famous self-portrait was purchased by the Czechoslovak state in 1923 for the then Modern gallery. Everybody knows the figure of the Douanier with a palette and a ship decorated with flags in the background, either from the National Gallery or from the reproductions hanging on the walls of school corridors. The second reason is Rousseau's strong reflection in the works of the leading Czech artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The exhibition presents the works of Kamil Lhoták, Jiří Kolář, and Josef Čapek which show evident inspiration by the Douanier,'* says Kristýna Brožová, the curator of the exhibition.

In addition to the famous portrait, the visitors will be able to see a wide array of Rousseau's paintings, from exotic jungles (The Snake Charmer or Fight Between a Tiger and a Buffalo), women's portraits (Portrait of Madame M.), and still lifes (The Pink Candle) to his typical naïve landscapes (The Chair Factory at Alfortville or Alleyway in the Park of Saint Cloud). *'The exhibition seeks to present the whole palette of the Douanier's work in the context of the works of those who recognised his talent, admired him, were his friends, and found inspiration in him. The portrait of Frida Kahlo as well as the landscapes by Paul Signac and George Seurat will definitely attract attention,'* adds Kristýna Brožová.

The exhibition will be moved from the famous Musée d'Orsay where it was a hit among visitors and one of the most successful exhibitions of the last decade. The Prague exhibition will run from 15 September 2016 to 15 January 2017.

## BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

**Date**

September 15 2016 – January 15 2017

**Venue**

National Gallery in Prague – Kinsky Palace

**Exhibition Authors**

Gabriella Belli, Guy Cogeval

**Curator**

Kristýna Brožová

**In cooperation with**

Musée d'Orsay

**Supported by**

Ministerstvo kultury ČR

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Komerční banka

**Main partner**

The Pudil Family Foundation

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## CONTACT INFORMATION AND PICTURE MATERIAL

### Printed Materials and Pictures

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### Contact information

Tereza Ježková

PR manager

+420 728 301 377

[tereza.jezkova@ngprague.cz](mailto:tereza.jezkova@ngprague.cz)

National Gallery in Prague

Staroměstské náměstí 12, 110 15 Praha 1

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