

AXA pursues its commitment to cultural philanthropy and safeguarding cultural heritage

The French State acquires for the Louvre Museum the *Pietà with Saint John and Two Angels* attributed to Jean Malouel, thanks to AXA's patronage

On the 3rd of May, French Minister for Culture and Communication Frédéric Mitterrand announced the acquisition by the French State, for the Louvre Museum, of the *Pietà with Saint John and Two Angels* attributed to Jean Malouel, thanks to AXA's patronage.

The Pietà with Saint John and Two Angels, probably painted between 1405 and 1410, is exceptional due to its pictorial quality, delicate style and emotional power.

Born in the Duchy of Guelders around 1370-1375, Jean Malouel is one of the most renowned "French primitives", having spent most of his career in France.

Until now, only two paintings had been attributed to Jean Malouel: the Large Round Pietà, in the collections of the Louvre Museum since 1864, and the impressive Virgin and Child with Angels, acquired in 1987 by the Gemäldegalerie in Berlin.

The AXA Group's contribution to safeguarding French cultural heritage has amounted to 48.3 million Euros over the last nine years. AXA has enriched public collections with various masterpieces, including the Denial of Saint Peter by Louis or Antoine Le Nain (Louvre Museum), a magnificent Dogon statue (Quai Branly Museum), Nicolas Poussin's Flight into Egypt (Lyon Museum of Fine Arts) or the earthenware from the Château de Polisy (National Museum of the Renaissance).

The AXA Group, through its AXA Art subsidiary¹, is a leading global art insurance specialist, which has been providing for more than 50 years a unique mix of financial and art market expertise to private and institutional art collectors, museums and temporary exhibitions. AXA Art is committed to preserving art treasures, and supports projects aimed at developing new techniques for restoring and conserving important works of art.

"AXA's commitment to protecting and transmitting cultural heritage is a natural extension of our business as an insurer, which involves not only protecting the individuals over the long term, but also developing their accumulated wealth. Our cultural and heritage philanthropy actions are closely linked to our corporate responsibility. We are again very proud and happy to participate to the acquisition of a national treasure exposed at the Louvre Museum, benefiting to the million visitors of this museum", said **Henri de Castries, Chairman and CEO of AXA.**

¹ <http://www.axa-art.com/>

About the AXA Group

The AXA Group is a worldwide leader in insurance and asset management, with 163,000 employees serving 101 million clients in 57 countries. In 2011, IFRS revenues amounted to Euro 86.1 billion and IFRS underlying earnings to Euro 3.9 billion. AXA had Euro 1,065 billion in assets under management as of December 31, 2011.

The AXA ordinary share is listed on compartment A of Euronext Paris under the ticker symbol CS (ISN FR 0000120628 – Bloomberg: CS FP – Reuters: AXAF.PA). AXA's American Depository Share is also quoted on the OTC QX platform under the ticker symbol AXAHY.

The AXA Group is included in the main international SRI indexes, such as Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) and FTSE4GOOD.

This press release is available on the AXA Group website
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