



**For immediate release**

**FIVE CANADIAN MUSEUMS PARTICIPATE IN THE LAUNCH OF THE AMICO LIBRARY**

OTTAWA, Canada – 30 June 1999 – Five Canadian Museums, namely the National Gallery of Canada, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, and the Musée d'art contemporain are proud to announce their collaborative participation in the launch of the AMICO Library on 1 July 1999.

The AMICO Library is an exciting, new resource for universities, colleges, schools, and public libraries, that provides multimedia documentation of artworks from the collections of leading museums. Compiled by the Art Museum Image Consortium (AMICO), the AMICO Library provides students, teachers, and lifelong learners a range of multimedia documenting the varied collections of AMICO Members. The Library is accessible over secure networks on an institutional subscriber basis. Available beginning 1 July, the 1999 edition of the AMICO Library documents over 50,000 different objects from prehistoric goddess figures to contemporary installations. You may preview the AMICO Library at <http://www.amico.org>.

AMICO, Italian for "friend" and pronounced similar to "amigo", draws its strength from the diversity of its Members. Their collections provide a range of breadth and depth to the AMICO Library. More than simply an image database, entries in the AMICO Library may contain curatorial text about the artwork, detailed provenance information, multiple views of the work itself, and other related multimedia. The Library is projected to grow to 250,000 works of art by 2002.

Founded in October 1997, as a program of the Association of Art Museum Directors Educational Foundation, Inc., AMICO was separately incorporated as an independent non-profit corporation in June of 1998. The Consortium is today made up of 28 of the major art collections in North America and its Members continue to work together to enable educational use of their digital documentation. This important and ground-breaking collaboration has been previously unseen in the museum world and will greatly facilitate curatorial research in the development of special exhibitions. Inclusion in the AMICO Library provides an excellent opportunity for Canadian museums to profile their important Canadian and non-Canadian collections internationally.

AMICO Membership is open to any organization in the world with a collection of art. Active members commit to submitting 500 new works each year. AMICO Members benefit from the communal knowledge of the consortium, set policy for the organization, and promote the educational use of their collections. Further information about AMICO and its activities is available via the Internet at <http://www.amico.org>.

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Museum of Art, New York, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

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