

For Immediate Release

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**The French Institute Alliance Française**  
presents

***The Great Masters of Lithography:  
Vintage Posters from Calder, Chagall, Dufy, Léger, Matisse, Miró,  
Picasso, and Others***

**November 6–December 12, 2009**

**FIAF • Gallery; 22 East 60th Street, NY, NY**

***“Among all the different techniques for illustrating text, the lithograph is perhaps the one that best complements poetry.” - Paul Valéry***

**New York, NY, October 13, 2009** – The French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF), New York’s premiere center for French language and culture, will invite viewers this fall to experience a collection of vintage poster lithographs from the Atelier Mourlot in a new exhibit, *The Great Masters of Lithography*. From November 6 to December 12, 2009, the FIAF gallery will showcase a stunning array of lithographs from the renowned Atelier Mourlot, featuring masters such as Matisse, Braque, Chagall, Picasso, Miró, Dubuffet, and Leger.

From Picasso’s undulating, disquieting forms to Matisse’s dynamic collages, through Chagall’s dreamlike, phantasmagorical landscapes, FIAF’s *The Great Masters of Lithography* presents an incredible breadth of originality and artistry through an exposition of iconic imagery. Applied directly to smooth stone lithographic tablets, each brilliant image is the result of a carefully executed experiment performed in the legendary Atelier Mourlot, an artistic domain inextricably imbued with creative memory. The Atelier Mourlot functioned as the private printing studio of numerous modern masters, including Matisse and Picasso, the latter whom toppled traditional printmaking methods in customary élan to create nearly 400 works on zinc, stone and paper from 1945 to 1969.

Reflecting energy and luminescence, the lithographs not only invoke the diligent technique and conscientiousness employed by the artists but also the significance of the lithograph as a free-standing artistic form. An important reference in the survey of art history, *The Great Masters of Lithography* maps the resurgence of the lithograph since the 19th century and its evolution as a contemporary medium of expression. Though the lithograph bears the trappings of an artwork rendered by machine trials, the FIAF exhibit reveals a boundless joy derived from the fruits of a human partnership.

“It was a Golden Age in French art and quite particular in that the artists were acutely aware of and involved in their own promotion and the production of these lithographic works,” said Tristan de Terves, FIAF Gallery Director. “This afforded them creative control over their promotion materials, and the resulting works are now considered pieces of art in their own right.”

A selection of the lithographs to be exhibited in *The Great Masters of Lithography* will be available for purchase at the FIAF gallery as well as online through *La Boutique* at [www.fiaf.org/laboutique](http://www.fiaf.org/laboutique).

### About Atelier Mourlot

The Atelier Mourlot traces back to a Parisian print shop on rue Saint-Maur in East Paris. Founded by François Mourlot in 1852, it originally specialized in the printing of wallpaper but was transformed when Fernand Mourlot (grandson of François) invited a number of 20th Century artists to explore the complexities of fine art printing. Championing the interest of painters who re-imagined the lithographic technique (a painter's medium then limited to illustration), Fernand heralded the resurrection of the lithograph as an art form. Painters were encouraged to work directly on lithographic stones in order to create original artworks that could then be executed under the direction of master printers in small editions.

The Mourlot tradition of excellence continues today through Eric Mourlot (great-great grandson of François Mourlot). In 1991, Eric began his own odyssey through the art world by opening Galerie Mourlot on Boston's Newbury Street. The gallery moved to its present location on New York's Upper East Side in 2006 and has since become home to some of the art world's most prominent presences, including Acquavella Galleries, Gagosian gallery, L&M Arts and Richard Feigen & Co., to name a few.

### The Great Masters of Lithography Images

All Images © Atelier Mourlot



Pablo Picasso, Françoise avant la Lettre 1956

<http://www.fiaf.org/press/2009-10/lithography/MuseeGalliera.jpg>

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- George Braque, Les Peintres Témoins de Leurs Temps, Musée Galliéra 1961  
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- Marc Chagall, The House in My Village 1969  
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- Marc Chagall, Le Peintre en rose, Musée des Arts Décoratifs - Palais du Louvre 1959  
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- Le Corbusier, Œuvre Plastique, Musée National d'Art Moderne 1954  
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- Joan Miró, Œuvres Récentes, Galerie Maeght 1952  
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### About the Gallery at FIAF

Since its opening in April 2007, FIAF Gallery has been an invaluable addition to the French Institute Alliance Française. Dedicated to showing artwork that promotes the dialogue between American and French-speaking communities, the Gallery has been host to both established artists like Arman and Peter Knapp and emerging French and American artists like Sarah Caron and Cécile Pitois.

### About FIAF

FIAF, a not-for-profit organization created in 1898 by American Francophiles, is one of the largest and most respected centers of French-American activities in the United States, widely known as the home of New York's foremost French language school, the leading all-French library in the country, and New York's only performing arts center dedicated to French and Francophone culture. FIAF is dedicated to encouraging interaction and better understanding between French-speaking and American communities by creating programs in the arts and education that promote and enhance knowledge of French and Francophone culture.

### MERCI !

This exhibit is courtesy of the Galerie Eric Murlot.

### LISTING SUMMARY

**What:** FIAF presents *The Great Masters of Lithography*  
**When:** November 6–December 12, 2009  
**Where:** FIAF- Gallery; 22 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street (between Park and Madison Avenues)  
**Admission:** Free  
**Information:** [fiaf.org](http://fiaf.org) | 646 388 6667  
**Transportation:** Subway - 4, 5, 6, N, R and W to 59th Street & Lexington Avenue;  
 F to 63rd Street & Lexington Avenue  
 Bus - M1, M2, M3, M4, Q31 to 59th Street; M5 to 58th Street