



ALBRIGHT KNOX
ART GALLERY

1285 Elmwood Avenue Tel 716.882.8700
Buffalo, New York Fax 716.882.1958
14222-1096 www.albrightknox.org

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt
June 25, 2002

CONTACT: Cheryl Orlick
Public Information Officer
716.270.8204
corlick@albrightknox.org

THE ART OF AMEDEO MODIGLIANI, RENOWNED ARTIST OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY, COMING TO ALBRIGHT-KNOX ART GALLERY IN OCTOBER

*One of the World's Premiere Centers of Contemporary and Modern Art
Showcasing the Birth of Modern Art with Major International Exhibition*

BUFFALO, N.Y. – The Albright-Knox Art Gallery will present a major international exhibition of works by Italian master Amedeo Modigliani, who helped spawn the modern art movement in early 20th century Paris. The exhibition will premiere in Buffalo October 22, 2002 and be on view through January 12, 2003.

Modigliani and the Artists of Montparnasse--the first major Modigliani exhibition in the United States in 40 years--will feature approximately 60 paintings, sculptures, and works on paper by Modigliani, as well as 22 works by his contemporaries from the Montparnasse section of Paris, artists such as Matisse, Picasso, Brancusi, and Soutine.

Organized by the Albright-Knox, a leading international center of modern and contemporary art, the exhibition will include masterpieces from renowned museums and private collections in America, Europe, and Japan. Many of the works have never been seen in the United States.

In addition to the Albright-Knox, the lenders include Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum of Art, New York; The Art Institute of Chicago; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Musée Picasso, Paris; and Tate Modern, London.

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Modigliani (1884-1920) was born into a Jewish family in the cosmopolitan port town of Livorno, Italy, near Pisa. He moved to Paris in 1906 and became a central figure of the Parisian avant-garde. Modigliani was part of the first real international group of artists, a group that forever changed the art world by using non-Western influences such as African art in modernizing traditional subjects. Their works paved the way for the next generation of modern artists. The exhibition will show how Modigliani's art and life epitomize the diverse, multi-cultural artistic approach that developed in Montparnasse, a bohemian Paris neighborhood at the beginning of the twentieth century.

A master portraitist and sculptor, Modigliani is widely considered one of the great modern European artists. He is known for his elongated and sensuous portraits of women, including many exquisite female nudes. He exhibited with Picasso at least eight times and was often the "headliner" of their exhibitions. Modigliani accomplished much despite personal struggles and a tragically short life, dying of tuberculosis at age 35.

Modigliani's inspiration came from a variety of western and nonwestern sources, including African and Oceanic art, symbolism, fauvism, and cubism, among many others. He also made a major contribution to modern sculpture, producing carved stone heads that were influenced by African masks, Egyptian art, medieval sculpture, and Michelangelo. Several of these sculptures are included in the exhibition.

The exhibition will allow the Albright-Knox to feature several works from its distinguished collection of modern art, including Modigliani's *Servant Girl*, 1918; Marc Chagall's dream-like *Peasant Life*, 1925; Robert Delaunay's dynamic *Sun, Tower, Airplane* from 1913; and *Woman's Head*, 1909, a boldly-modeled sculpture by Pablo Picasso.

Following the premiere in Buffalo, ***Modigliani and the Artists of Montparnasse*** will be presented at two prestigious museums: the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas, February 9 to May 25, 2003; and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, June 29 to September 28, 2003.

He took traditional subjects in art history and modernized them, thereby underscoring their enduring appeal," said exhibition curator Dr. Kenneth Wayne. "Like other avant-garde artists, Modigliani avoided naturalistic depictions in favor of making something more imaginative and creative."

Albright-Knox Art Gallery Curator Dr. Kenneth Wayne organized the exhibition and wrote the accompanying catalogue published by Harry N. Abrams, Inc. /Albright-Knox Art Gallery. The 224-page volume includes approximately 200 color and black-and-white illustrations and three essays: *Modigliani and Montparnasse*; *Modigliani and the Avant-Garde*; and *Modigliani's Lifetime Exhibitions*. The catalogue includes extensive new material drawn from Dr. Wayne's more-than 15 years of research. He was also very fortunate to interview one of Modigliani's last models, Paulette Jourdain and to gain new insight into the artist's life and work.

Modigliani and the Artists of Montparnasse is made possible in Buffalo through the generous support of M&T Bank. This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities and in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The exhibition was organized by the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York.

General ticket sales begin Tuesday, October 8, 2002. See attached sheet for information.

The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra recorded the compact disc, "Rhapsodie," in celebration of the exhibition *Modigliani and the Artists of Montparnasse*. The CD includes compositions by Ravel, Debussy, D'Indy, and Massenet, all contemporaries of Modigliani.

The Modigliani exhibition reinforces the Albright-Knox Art Gallery's position as a leading arts institution committed to the acquisition and exhibition of dynamic modern and contemporary art. In addition, it fulfills an objective of the Gallery's new strategic plan to continue to originate special exhibitions for national and international tours.

The Albright-Knox Art Gallery enjoys a worldwide reputation as an outstanding center of modern and contemporary art. Its permanent collection, which includes works by most of the great artists of the late 19th and the 20th centuries, has been cited as "one of the world's top international surveys of modern and contemporary painting and sculpture."

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Note to Editors: Photos are available by contacting Cheryl Orlick at the Gallery or the Agency contact below.

AGENCY CONTACT:	Glen White	716.831.1500
	Carr Marketing Communications	
	gawhite@carrmarketing.com	