

Deji Art Museum's Flagship Permanent Collection Exhibition
“Nothing Still About Still Lifes:
Masterpieces from the World of Flowers Collection” Undergoes Upgrade

Total Artworks Rise to 140,
With Nearly a Third on Public Display at the Museum for the First Time



Pierre-Auguste Renoir, *Fleurs dans un Vase*, 1878, Oil on canvas, 55.8 × 46 cm
Deji Art Museum Collection



DEJI ART MUSEUM

德基艺术博物馆

Nanjing, September 30, 2025 — Deji Art Museum is pleased to announce that its flagship permanent collection exhibition, *“Nothing Still About Still Lifes: Masterpieces from the World of Flowers Collection,”* will undergo a significant upgrade and reopen to the public on October 24, 2025. The upgrade centers on three major enhancements: the addition of new artworks, with the revamped exhibition now featuring 140 works in total, nearly one-third of which are recently acquired or updated pieces being displayed at the museum for the first time; a deepened narrative, with *“Nothing Still About Still Lifes”* expanded and enriched across multiple dimensions made possible by the latest research; and an enhanced visitor experience that integrates comprehensive exhibition support, upgraded public education services, and the newly launched online collection database. Open daily until midnight, Deji Art Museum meets visitors on their schedules and expands access to arts and culture beyond standard hours.

As Deji Art Museum’s flagship permanent collection exhibition, *“Nothing Still About Still Lifes: Masterpieces from the World of Flowers Collection”* showcases pivotal works from the museum’s World of Flowers Modern and Contemporary Art Collection. Focusing on floral-themed masterpieces from China and abroad, spanning Impressionism to today, the collection builds on over a decade of research and acquisitions by Deji to advance a leading, research-driven collection dedicated to floral composition. Adopting a cross-cultural and interdisciplinary perspective, the museum re-examines this theme, emphasizing the unique significance of flowers in the development of art history and revealing how they serve as a medium of exchange that transcends time, space, and cultural boundaries, illuminating broader historical and cultural exchanges.

Ai Lin, Director of Deji Art Museum, stated: “This upgrade embodies the museum team’s ongoing explorations in collection, research, curation, education, and operations, making *Nothing Still About Still Lifes* an exhibition that grows and evolves alongside the *World of Flowers* Modern and Contemporary Art Collection. We hope that audiences will not only appreciate masterpieces in art history here but also experience how classics transcend time and space to engage in in-depth dialogue with contemporary life—thus making art a way of life, a cultural force that embodies ‘connect, inspire, create, and transform.’”

Building on the framework laid out by guest curator Joachim Pissarro at the exhibition’s 2023 inauguration, this renewal has been further developed and completed by the museum team through two years of acquisitions and research. The total number of artworks in the exhibition has expanded to 140 works, with nearly one-third of these being newly acquired or displayed at the museum for the first time. The lineup of artists in the exhibition has grown to 109, including renowned modern masters such as Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Paul Cézanne, Edvard Munch, Pablo Picasso, and Henri Matisse; major figures in contemporary art like Andy Warhol, Yayoi Kusama, David Hockney, Anselm Kiefer, Jeff Koons, and Yoshitomo Nara; and pioneering Chinese artists across generations such as Sanyu, Pan Yuliang, Wu Dayu, Wu Guanzhong, Zao Wou-Ki, Chu Teh-Chun, Chen Yifei, and Zhang Xiaogang. The exhibition now encompasses nearly 50 major artistic movements and groups, including Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Cubism, Fauvism, Expressionism, Dadaism, Surrealism, Abstract Art, Pop Art, and Conceptual Art. It outlines the evolution and integration of artistic styles and trends among these movements, infusing this grand artistic symphony with new energy and perspectives.



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Key artworks include:

- **Pierre-Auguste Renoir** (1841-1919), *Fleurs dans un Vase*, 1878, Oil on canvas, 55.8 × 46 cm
- **Claude Monet** (1840-1926), *Double-Flower Door*, 1883, Oil on canvas, 119.4 × 36.8cm
- **Henri Rousseau** (1844-1910), *Vase de fleurs à la branche de lierre*, première version, 1901-1902, Oil on canvas, 46.4 × 33 cm
- **Pablo Picasso** (1881-1973), *Vase de Fleurs*, 1904, Oil on canvas, 65 × 50.3 cm
- **Edvard Munch** (1863-1944), *Fjordlandskap (Fjord Landscape)*, c.1918, Oil on canvas, 58.5 × 85 cm
- **Francis Picabia** (1879-1953), *Silene*, 1930-1931, Oil on canvas, 44.5 × 54 cm
- **Willem de Kooning** (1904-1997), *Still Life*, 1929, Oil on canvas, 91.4 × 66 cm
- **Wu Dayu** (1903-1988), *Untitled 128*, c.1980, Oil on canvas, 41.5 × 32.5 cm
- **Wu Guanzhong** (1919-2010), *Fountain*, 1995, Oil on canvas, 39.5 × 49.5 cm
- **Zhang Xiaogang** (b.1958), *Goddess of Flowers No.1*, 1986, Oil on canvas, 51.3 × 36 cm
- **Anselm Kiefer** (b.1945), *Wer jetzt kein Haus hat, baut sich keines mehr – für R.M. Rilke*, 2021-2022, Emulsion, oil, acrylic, shellac, lead, rope, sediment from an electrolysis and chalk on canvas, 280 × 380 cm

Built on two years of new research, the exhibition deepens its narrative and redesigns its galleries in tandem. Cross-verification and analysis of newly discovered documents, visual evidence, and works in the collection informed the sequencing, spacing, and sightlines, with pairs and trios of adjacent works structured to build coherent stories. A focus on transformation shows how individual works mark turning points in their movements and mirror wider shifts in politics, economics, technology, and culture. The narrative also foregrounds women artists, showcasing the profound creativity and irreplaceable spiritual energy embodied in their works.

The upgraded “*Nothing Still About Still Lives*” also comprehensively enhances the visitor experience. A revamped exhibition support system not only provides diverse bilingual (Chinese and English) guided tour services that are both in-person and AI-powered, but also features an interactive inquiry platform that interprets botanical knowledge related to the flower species depicted in the artworks. Under the “Open 365 days a year, until midnight” initiative, the museum is open daily until midnight, giving visitors greater flexibility. Furthermore, the museum has also enriched its public education offerings by adding exclusive interactive children’s exhibition guides, as well as an expanding roster of courses, lectures, workshops, and publishing programs for all age groups, to ensure that all audiences can obtain knowledge and exchange experiences tailored to their needs. In addition to these initiatives, the museum launches its collection database accessible to all—virtual and in-person visitors from around the world are now able to search and explore all the works on view online. Coupled with high-definition images and detailed records, it enables audiences to transcend the temporal and spatial boundaries between collection and display, making it easier to appreciate and study the collection from anywhere, before, during, or after a visit.

Deji Art Museum continues to expand the research resources of the *World of Flowers* Modern and Contemporary Art Collection, providing greater convenience and support for relevant research by scholars at home and abroad. It also looks forward to taking this opportunity to promote museum-to-museum exchange and collaboration around this thematic collection, advancing its institutional mission to foster cultural exchange through scholarship.



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Editor's Note

About the Deji Art Museum

Deji Art Museum, founded by the Deji Group, is a non-profit art institution grounded in a global perspective, a contemporary context, and reflections on local culture. It is dedicated to activating art's power to connect, inspire, create, and transform.

Drawing on the inspiration of art, Deji Art Museum explores creative transformation through its practices in collection, exhibition, research, education, and operations. It seeks to weave enduring connections between art, the museum, and its audiences—connections that transcend time, culture, and discipline. Each connection sparks new inspirations; inspiration gives rise to creation; creation, in turn, leads to transformation—together forming an unceasing circle where art and life continually renew one another.

Deji Art Museum's collection reflects nearly thirty years of thoughtful acquisitions, encompassing ancient Chinese ceramics, calligraphy and painting, Buddhist sculpture, classical furniture, as well as Chinese and international modern and contemporary art. Building upon Nanjing's profound legacy as a crossroads of civilizations and of diverse conceptions of life, nature, and the cosmos, the museum's exhibitions and research expand the narratives of art history from plural, present-day perspectives. By engaging with the interwoven paths of life, art, and cutting-edge technology, it sparks fresh perception and imagination, offering audiences experiences that are both innovative and deeply resonant.

Since opening its first venue in 2017, at the heart of Nanjing's cultural axis and "Museum Mile," within the landmark Deji Plaza at Xinjiekou, China's premier commercial district, the museum has envisioned a city-wide multi-venue network. New venues in Hexi and Xianlin are currently under construction. Together, they will weave diverse artistic experiences into the city's fabric, creating a vibrant cultural hub that fosters exchange between Nanjing and the world.

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