For Immediate Release
Images upon request

Contact: Steven Bowling
Chief Marketing Officer
Speed Art Museum
sbowling@speedmuseum.org
(502) 634-2702 Office
(502) 386-5235 Cell

Pablo Picasso, French, born Spain, 1881–1973
The Studio, 1934 Oil on canvas Stretcher: 50 3/8 x 62 3/4 in. (128 x 159.4 cm)
Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Henry R. Hope
Eskenazi Museum of Art, Indiana University, 69.55

Picasso to Pollock: Modern Masterworks from the Eskenazi Museum of Art at Indiana University Bloomington
June 16, 2018 – January 13, 2019

LOUISVILLE, KY (June 14, 2018) – Picasso to Pollock: Modern Masterworks from the Eskenazi Museum of Art showcases more than seventy rare paintings, sculptures, and works on paper, including highlights by Pablo Picasso, Diego Rivera, Henry Moore, and Jackson Pollock. The show is the first in a series of collaborations and collection exchanges with the Eskenazi Museum of Art at Indiana University in Bloomington. “This is an ideal exhibition to kick off this important partnership. At the Speed, we’re taking our visitors on a journey through the first half of the 20th century, exploring nearly every major European and American artistic movement between 1900 and 1950. It was an era of unprecedented political, social, and artistic upheaval,” said Erika Holmquist-Wall, Chief Curator of the Speed Art Museum. “Artists have always responded to the world around them. This was a period when the world was buckling under two major wars within the span of thirty years. It was the machine age – life was speeding up, pushing artists to seek answers to fundamental questions about the nature of art and the human experience. In so doing, these artists were also experimenting with radical, new approaches to color, line, form, and other modes of expression. Artistic revolutionaries like Picasso, Pollock, and others were shattering the boundaries of convention in the wake of a new world,” she concluded.

Modernist art reflects the context of its creation, not simply through image, but through process; as the world changed, so too did the way artists create. “Picasso to Pollock: Modern Masterworks is unique in that the works in the show span the entirety of the modernist age, offering a unique perspective into why artists made the work they did, and how they responded to the rapidly changing
“world around them,” says Jenny McComas, Curator of American and European Art at the Eskenazi Museum of Art. “This collection presents a well-rounded survey of the striking figures, vibrant colors, and unconventional modes of representation that define modernism,” she added. *Picasso to Pollock: Modern Masterworks* assembles artworks from leaders within such avant-garde artistic movements such as Cubism, Expressionism, and Surrealism, delivering a crash-course on the ways the modern age reimagined art and created a foundation for the contemporary art world. Beyond that, it tells the stories of these artists, many of whom were revolutionaries in a time of revolution and rapid change.

The Speed invites community members to engage more deeply with this exhibition through a series of programs and workshops throughout the show’s run. To celebrate the show’s opening, VIPs and members will attend a kickoff and preview party on Thursday, June 14. Later in the month, museum guests are encouraged to join the Speed Reading Gallery Tour on Saturday, June 23, as they explore Kurt Vonnegut’s modernist war memoir, *Slaughterhouse-Five* in conjunction with the exhibition. Also, a series of free films are scheduled in association with the exhibition during the Speed’s Free Owsley Sundays – Jackson Pollock, June 17, 24; The Mystery of Picasso, July 1, 8, 15; and Man Ray X2, July 29. For a full listing visit speedmuseum.org.

“This partnership is remarkable for several reasons. One is the opportunity to share real masterpieces from one of the country’s great museum collections with a broader audience in Louisville and our region. It is also far longer than most three-month loan agreements and gives us five years to organize additional exhibitions from the Eskenazi while it is closed for renovation (and after), and then gives IU time to share works from the Speed’s collection with students and the people of Bloomington,” said Speed Art Museum Director, Stephen Reily. “Museums in the same region sometimes consider each other competitors, when they should be friends; I am proud to model a new kind of regional partnership between museums.”

“The exhibition at the Speed will introduce new audiences to the Eskenazi and its remarkable modern holdings,” said David Brenneman, Director of the Eskenazi Museum of Art. “It also enables us to continue serving Indiana University students and faculty, particularly those affiliated with the IU-Southeast campus in New Albany, during our closure,” added Brenneman.

**EXHIBITION CREDITS**

Exhibition organized by Jenny McComas, Curator of European and American Art for the Eskenazi Museum of Art at Indiana University and Erika Holmquist-Wall, Chief Curator and Mary & Barry Bingham Sr., Curator of European & American Painting for the Speed Art Museum, and made possible this season by Elizabeth W. Davis, A. Cary Brown & Steven E. Epstein, and Paul & Deborah Chellgren, along with Delta Dental, Dinsmore, and an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

For more information on *Picasso to Pollock: Modern Masterworks from the Eskenazi Museum of Art at Indiana University*, as well as current exhibitions on view at the Speed Art Museum, visit speedmuseum.org.

Corporate support for the Speed Art Museum’s exhibition season is provided by: 
About the Speed Art Museum

The Speed Art Museum is Kentucky’s largest art museum. An independent and encyclopedic museum located on the campus of the University of Louisville, the Speed celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2017. Louisville philanthropist Hattie Bishop Speed founded the Speed Art Museum, which opened in 1927, with a belief in the power of art to change people’s lives.

The Speed reopened in 2016 following a 3-year, $60 million renovation and expansion designed by Kulapat Yantrasast of wHY that doubled the museum’s overall square footage and nearly tripled its gallery space. Free Owsley Sundays, sponsored by the Brown-Forman Corporation, draw large and diverse crowds every week. For more information, visit www.speedmuseum.org.

# # #