Claude Monet was an avid horticulturist and arguably the most important painter of gardens in the history of art but he was not alone. Great artists like Van Gogh, Bonnard, Sorolla, Sargent, Pissarro and Matisse all saw the garden as a powerful subject for their art. These great artists, along with many other famous names, feature in an innovative and extensive film based on the exhibition at The Royal Academy of Arts, London.

From the exhibition walls to the wonder and beauty of artists’ gardens like Giverny and Seebüll, the film takes a magical and widely travelled journey to discover how different contemporaries of Monet built and cultivated modern gardens to explore expressive motifs, abstract colour, decorative design and utopian ideas. Guided by passionate curators, artists and garden enthusiasts, this remarkable collection of Impressionists, Post-Impressionists, and avant-garde artists of the early twentieth century will reveal the rise of the modern garden in popular culture and the public’s enduring fascination with gardens today. Long considered spaces for expressing colour, light and atmosphere, the garden has occupied the creative minds of some of the world’s greatest artists. As Monet said, ‘Apart from painting and gardening, I’m no good at anything’. For lovers of art or lovers of gardens, should be a fascinating film.

Filmed and Directed by David Bickerstaff, Produced by Phil Grabsky, Music by Asa Bennett

KEY WORKS DISCUSSED:

- Claude Monet, Agapanthus Triptych 1915-26
- Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Claude Monet Painting in His Garden at Argenteuil, 1873
- Joaquin Sorolla, Louis Comfort Tiffany, 1911
- Henri Matisse, Palm Leaf, Tangier, 1912

WIN!

For your chance to win a Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse exhibition catalogue, signed by curator, Ann Dumas, simply answer the question below:

What was the theme of Monet’s ‘Grandes Decorations’?

1) Waterlily Pond  2) Japanese Bridge  3) Weeping Willows

Send your answers to info@seventh-art.com by 30th May.

The winner will be announced by the first week of June.
FACTS & TRIVIA

• Due to the rise of the middle class in the 19th century the purpose of the garden evolved into one of gardening for pleasure opposed to gardening for vegetables.

• When Monet first applied for planning permission to make his famous water garden he came across much resistance. Farmers were wary of these new aquatic plants, worrying they would poison the water and kill the cattle.

• Many, at the time, considered horticulture to be as artistic as painting. “My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece” - Claude Monet