

AXA Group and its subsidiary AXA ART are supporting the acquisition of a national treasure by the Louvre Museum.

To complete the funding of this acquisition, a call for public donations has also been launched.

The Louvre and the Société des Amis du Louvre¹ launched a new campaign, « *Tous mécènes !²* », to support the acquisition of the two remaining ivory statuettes of the *Descente de Croix*, namely the *Synagogue* and *saint Jean*.

This unusual operation benefits from the sponsorship of AXA ART, world leader in the insurance of art and collectibles.

The *Descente de Croix* group kept by the Louvre is a significant work of French gothic art, remarkable both for the quality and elegance of its style as well as its rare emotional hold. Two statuettes were previously missing from this group: *saint Jean* and the allegory of the *Synagogue*. They were believed to be lost forever, likely destroyed over time. Fortunately they have recently been identified by a private collector in Paris and offered for purchase to the Louvre. This represents an opportunity to complete this extraordinary collection almost one hundred and twenty years after the acquisition of the first statuettes, acquired from Mannheim in 1896.

Euro 2.6 million will be necessary in order to reunite the two newly discovered statuettes and the five already in possession of the Louvre. The Société des Amis du Louvre naturally volunteered to participate, providing 50% of the total amount.

The AXA Group and its subsidiary AXA ART, world leader in the insurance of art and collectibles, have decided to be a part of this operation through a contribution of Euro 500,000.

The general public has also been invited to be involved in this cause, in order to raise the remaining Euro 800,000. This call for public donations is an innovative financing process that AXA ART has decided to support, helping to increase public awareness of the importance of protecting cultural objects.

« Acquiring a national treasure is extraordinary. But restoring the original splendor of a masterpiece, by bringing all the pieces back together, is even more incredible. This operation is consistent with our profession as art and collectible insurers, in terms of both heritage enhancement and transmission » said **Christian Muller, Chief Executive Officer of AXA ART France.**

Through this participation, AXA ART is reinforcing the AXA Group's commitment to help safeguard France's cultural heritage. Over the last nine years, AXA Group's contribution has amounted to Euro 48.8 million.

¹ The Louvre friend's association

² « *All Donors!* »

About AXA ART

AXA ART, subsidiary of the AXA Group, is a world leader in the insurance of art and collectibles. AXA ART provides expertise to private and institutional collectors as well as museums and temporary expositions. AXA ART is engaged in the protection and preservation of French cultural heritage, through their international support of a research program dealing with the maintenance of various works of art: the AXA Research Grant.

About the AXA Group

The AXA Group is a worldwide leader in insurance and asset management, with 163,000 employees serving 101 million clients in 57 countries. In 2011, IFRS revenues amounted to Euro 86.1 billion and IFRS underlying earnings to Euro 3.9 billion. AXA had Euro 1,065 billion in assets under management as of December 31, 2011. The AXA ordinary share is listed on compartment A of Euronext Paris under the ticker symbol CS (ISN FR 0000120628 – Bloomberg: CS FP – Reuters: AXAF.PA). AXA's American Depository Share is also quoted on the OTC QX platform under the ticker symbol AXAHY. The AXA Group is included in the main international SRI indexes, such as Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) and FTSE4GOOD, and is a founding member of the UN Environment Programme's Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) Principles for Sustainable Insurance.

This press release is available on the AXA Group's websites

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