



PRESS RELEASE

Paris, December 2, 2004

AXA DONATES A MASTERPIECE OF AFRICAN ART TO THE QUAI BRANLY MUSEUM

As part of its corporate philanthropy program, AXA has donated a masterpiece of African art to the Quai Branly Museum. Dating from the tenth or eleventh century, this wooden statue from the Djenné region in the west of the Dogon country in what is now Mali will be on exhibit at the museum when it opens in early 2006.

AXA's commitment to protecting the world's heritage and cultural treasures is a natural extension of its core financial protection business, which involves not only protecting the assets of individuals and businesses, but also developing and passing on their accumulated wealth. AXA has already made use of various tax incentives designed to encourage support of the arts, by contributing works to French collections, including the two engravings by Rosso Fiorentino it donated to the Louvre in October 2003.

The Quai Branly Museum, with its cosmopolitan, cultural focus on the arts and civilizations of Africa, Oceania and the Americas, is very like the AXA Group, whose success has stemmed – at least in part – from diversity. Doing business in over 50 countries around the world, AXA has always encouraged exchanges between its employees regardless of their geographical locations and promoted respect for each of its local cultural bases.

It is natural, then, that these two institutions should come together to form a partnership.

The unique wooden statue AXA has donated is remarkable for its size (almost two meters high), beauty and age – from the tenth or eleventh century. It symbolizes the system of matrilineal succession that existed in the Sahara.

Carrying twins, the androgynous figure is the king of peace, who represents fertility, protection and mediation. With his arms outstretched to the heavens, he kneels respectfully. The rich iconography of this severe and timeless ancestor embodies the ideas of perfection and immortality.

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About the AXA Group

AXA is a leader in Financial Protection, a business that involves offering our customers – individuals as well as small, mid-sized and large businesses – a wide range of products and services that meet their insurance, protection, savings, retirement and financial planning needs throughout their lives.

Today, fifty million clients worldwide rely on AXA to:

- insure their property (vehicles, homes, equipment)
- provide their families or employees with health and personal protection
- manage their personal or business assets

AXA reported assets under management totalling €827 billion at June 30, 2004, net revenues of €37 billion and underlying earnings of €1.436 billion for first-half 2004.