

Santa Barbara Museum of Art

From Delacroix to Monet, With Love

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

REPRESENTING THE MAJOR ART MOVEMENTS OF THE 19TH CENTURY, from Neoclassicism through Impressionism, a travelling exhibition of 40 works from the renowned Walters Art Museum collection in Baltimore makes its



Eik Kahng, SBMA Chief Curator and Curator of 19th- and Early 20th-Century European Art

only West Coast stop at Santa Barbara Museum of Art. *Delacroix to Monet: Masterpieces of 19th-Century Painting* opened this past week with a special members-only event for Benefactors Circle and Director's Patrons, followed by a general opening that drew more than 850 viewers. The exhibit will be on display through May 2nd.

"I can't tell you how pleased I am with this exhibition. I've never seen my paintings look so good," said Eik Kahng, SBMA Chief Curator and curator for the exhibit. "These paintings have traversed the centuries, arriving intact with their period frames in unbelievably pristine condition."

The VIP event opened with a lecture delivered by Kahng followed by a delectable

seafood spread, complete with crab legs and caviar, and the opportunity to sneak the first look at the exhibition.

"There's no one more knowledgeable in the galaxy than Eik is about this collection," said Larry Feinberg, SBMA Director, as he welcomed Kahng to the stage for her lecture. "We're thrilled to have her here at the museum."

Kahng, who recently joined SBMA as



At the Café (ca. 1879) by **Edouard Manet**. Courtesy of Walters Art Museum.

Chief Curator and Curator of 19th- and Early 20th-Century European Art, came to Santa Barbara from the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, where she served as Curator and Head of the Department of 18th- and 19th-Century Art since 2001. Widely published and a noted scholar, Kahng graduated summa cum laude from Princeton University, studied at the Sorbonne in Paris, and earned an MA and PhD from the University of California Berkeley, with a specialty in 18th- and 19th-century painting and its critical reception.

As Chief Curator, Kahng oversees all SBMA collections of pre-20th-century European art, including Greco-Roman antiquities and the extensive holdings of works of art on paper.

"Enjoy every moment you can with these paintings," said Kahng. "I know I'll be sad when May comes around and I'll have to say



Roger Durling, SBMA Executive Director; **Mimi Michaelis**, exhibition donor; **Larry Feinberg**, SBMA Director; **Lil Nelson**, Women's Board; **Mary Garfon**, Past Women's Board President; and **Gwen Baker**, Women's Board President



Jane Anderson, **Jane Gottlieb**, **Ken Anderson**, SBMA Trustee, and **Sharon Light**

good bye. For now, I'm so happy to share them."

SBMA is located at 1130 State St. Hours are 11 to 5pm, Tues-Sun. Closed Monday. Contact the museum at 963-4364 or visit www.sbma.net.