



For Immediate Release

**LIN ARISON AND NEIL FOLBERG DISCUSS THEIR BOOK
“TRAVELS WITH VAN GOGH AND THE IMPRESSIONISTS:
DISCOVERING THE CONNECTIONS”
AT THE MID-MANHATTAN NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
JANUARY 15 AT 6:30PM**

Author Lin Arison and photographer Neil Folberg, who most recently collaborated on “Travels With Van Gogh and the Impressionists: Discovering the Connections,” published by Abbeville Press in September, will speak about their work together at the Mid-Manhattan branch of the New York Public Library on January 15th at 6:30pm. The library is located at 455 Fifth Avenue @ 40th Street. The talk is free to the public. For further information on the talk, visit: www.nypl.org/events, or call 212-340-0849.

In 2000 Lin Arison and her 15-year-old granddaughter Sarah set out on a trip through France little aware of the transformation the month-long journey would have on both their lives. For Arison, though a seasoned traveler with an insatiable curiosity, the experience was a spiritual awakening that resulted in “Travels with Van Gogh and the Impressionists: Discovering the Connections.”

In this unique combining of memoir, art book, biography and travelogue, Arison guides readers from Auvers to Arles to Giverny to Mont Sainte-Victoire through her compelling, heartfelt narrative. Reproductions of classic paintings of the period are imaginatively paired with Neil Folberg’s contemporary photographs. Together, author and photographer shed original light on this well-documented period.

The ageless vitality of the painters resonates in Folberg’s fresh take on the very sites and subjects that inspired the artists. His camera translates a Degas drawing of young dancers, hands folded behind their backs, into a graphic, black

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and white image of two contemporary ballet students alone in a studio. The star-lit street scene of Van Gogh's "Café-Terrace at Night" is suggested in a photograph of a similar street, with its outdoor restaurant replaced by a mysterious, parked car.

Arison's natural warmth, ebullience and fearless curiosity radiate through the 245 pages, giving new and spirited relevance to the personal and communal lives and art of Pissarro, Monet, Manet, Renoir, Degas, Morisot and Van Gogh. Her perceptive and compassionate demystification of Van Gogh's reputation as a "madman" and her focus on the little-acknowledged, but pivotal importance Berthe Morisot played in the Impressionist movement are just some of the insights that the book presents.

Twinning the lives and struggles of the Impressionist artists with the personal discoveries they inspired in Arison, the book begins with the devastating death of her husband, Ted, the convention-defying, visionary creator of Carnival Cruise Lines. With her identity no longer coupled with that of her iconoclastic husband and still in deep mourning, Arison begins to experience a vague, but quietly persistent need to proclaim her own singular talents.

Her almost obsessive exposure to the work of Van Gogh and the Impressionists deepened her empathy with their dogged independence. It fostered her own determination and artistic vision and renewed her commitment to using her creative resources to make a significant difference in the lives of up and coming artists (most especially through youngARTS, a pioneering project she and her husband founded 26 years ago). Sarah Arison, whose interest in the arts was stimulated by her encounter with the Impressionists as a 15-year-old, now heads the Arison Arts Foundation.

Infusing this well-tread period of art history with 21st century immediacy, "Travels with Van Gogh and the Impressionists" testifies to the universality and continued relevance of the work of Van Gogh and the Impressionist painters. With its vital dialogue between old and new, the book is a tribute to the triumphant power of art.

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