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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**MAJOR TOULOUSE-LAUTREC EXHIBIT OPENS AT MONTHAVEN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER IN  
HENDERSONVILLE, TENN.**

**HENDERSONVILLE, Tenn. (Feb. 17, 2026)** – Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center is pleased to present *From the Moulin Rouge to Music City: The Graphics of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec*. The exhibit will feature approximately 50 works of the famed French artist, including a series of graphics and original drawings. The exhibit runs Feb. 21 to April 5, 2026.

“We are thrilled to introduce the lithographs of Henri Toulouse-Lautrec to our visitors at Monthaven,” says Cheryl Strichik, the MACC’s executive director. “Toulouse-Lautrec elevated poster art to something akin to fine art. We can appreciate that in Middle Tennessee, given the central role of posters in promoting Nashville’s music scene in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Toulouse-Lautrec paved the way for Nashville’s Hatch Show Print and for so much more.”

In 1890, Toulouse-Lautrec secured a significant commercial poster commission that arguably altered the trajectory of art history. The young, aristocratic Frenchman was engaged to create a design that would extend the extraordinary popularity of Le Moulin Rouge, then the hottest cabaret in Paris. His lithograph was a sensation. Indeed, it dissolved the boundary between the fine art and advertising, making way for the Pop Art Movement that appeared 60 years later.

Toulouse-Lautrec took his cues from 18<sup>th</sup>-century Japanese woodblock prints. Parisians and collectors could not stop clamoring for more. And, because Lautrec was featuring his personal chums — like can-can dancers, bar owners, prostitutes, fellow patrons, waiters, and

clowns — he was simultaneously transforming them into superstars. It lent his work an authenticity that could not be feigned. It also set the stage for the culture of celebrity worship that would come to the fore decades into the future.

The exhibit's opening will include a Parisian-style cocktail party. That event will start at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026.

Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center (MACC) is a jewel-box art museum and education facility housed in one of Tennessee's most spectacular antebellum mansions. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the MACC has staged exhibitions featuring everything from the ceramic art of Pablo Picasso to the evening gowns of Princess Diana. The artwork of local artists and military veterans are also on frequent display. As an art school, the MACC offers classes to more than 1,000 children and adults each year. The MACC also provides free arts outreach and healing arts to underserved children, families and military veterans. For more information, visit [www.monthavenarts.org](http://www.monthavenarts.org) or call (615) 822-0789.

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