

THE PALM BEACH SHOW

JEWELRY | ART | ANTIQUES | DESIGN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PALM BEACH COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER | 650 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Media Contact: Kelsi Monteith | Executive Director of Communications | Kelsi@palmbeachshow.com | 561.822.5440

Rare "Original Edition" Statue of Liberty to be Unveiled at the Annual Palm Beach Show to Mark America's 250th Anniversary Celebration

February 12-17, 2026 | Presidents' Day Weekend | Palm Beach County Convention Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (PALM BEACH, FL – February 5, 2026) – In a historic tribute to the Semiquincentennial of the United States, a rare, monumental bronze cast of Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi's *La Liberté éclairant le monde* (Liberty Enlightening the World) will be unveiled for public viewing at the Palm Beach Convention Center on **February 12th, 2026**.

Standing ten feet tall, this museum-quality masterpiece is not merely a replica, but a direct descendant of the original history that forged the New York icon. Cast from the actual 1878 plaster model used by Bartholdi to create the Statue of Liberty, this work will be the centerpiece of the **Palm Beach Show**, where it will be available for exclusive acquisition through New York gallery Modern Fine Art.

A Monumental Link to 1776 and 2026

As the United States celebrates "America 250"—the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence — this statue offers a tangible connection to the nation's founding.

Originally conceived by Bartholdi following a suggestion by Édouard de Laboulaye to honor the "friendship between peoples" and American independence, the statue remains the world's most potent symbol of liberty. This viewing offers the public a rare opportunity to stand before the artist's true vision, exactly as he finalized it in his Paris studio before it was enlarged 16 times for New York Harbor.

Unrivaled Historical Provenance

The significance of this piece lies in its lineage. It is produced from the final plaster model held in the collection of the **Musée des Arts et Métiers** in Paris. For over a century, no copies of this fragile plaster could be made. However, using advanced 3D metrology, a mold was created with micron-level precision to cast this limited "Original Bronze Edition".



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Key specifications of the work include:

- **Artist:** Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi (1834–1904).
- **Foundry:** Cast by the world-renowned Susse Fondeur, Paris.
- **Markings:** Signed and dated A. Bartholdi 1878; inscribed *Edition du modèle / du Conservatoire National / des Arts et Métiers*.
- **Dimensions:** Height: 112 5/8 inches (286 cm).
- **Rarity:** This work is part of a strictly limited edition of only 12 examples worldwide (in an edition of 8 numbered, with 4 artist proofs). The first of the edition (1/8) has been declared a **French National Treasure** and is on loan to the French Embassy in Washington DC.

Availability at The Palm Beach Show

This unveiling is not only a cultural exhibition but an opportunity for serious collectors and patrons of the arts. The sculpture will be available for purchase exclusively during the Palm Beach Show. It arrives with a certificate of authentication from the Musée des Arts et Métiers, ensuring its status as a piece of living history.

“La Liberté éclairant le monde is an icon that... has made us forget the heroic effort and technological ability that went into her creation,” notes the catalogue for the work. This February, Palm Beach Show visitors will rediscover that heroic effort in stunning detail.

Modern Fine Art of New York is proud to present Artist's Proof III/IV. Ray Waterhouse, founder of the gallery and a renowned art market veteran, says “it is an honor to exhibit this iconic symbol of American Independence, authorized by the French Museum which holds the original plaster. We hope that an American patriot purchases it for public display or their own collection. After this is sold, only one other cast will ever be available as 10 of the 12 have been sold.”

Event Details:

- **Date:** February 12-17, 2026
- **Location:** Palm Beach Convention Center, 650 Okeechobee Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL
- **Event:** The Palm Beach Show (Special America 250 Presentation)

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About the Artist Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi was one of the 19th century's most eminent sculptors. Deeply affected by the Franco-Prussian War and inspired by his travels across the United States, he sought to create a monument that defied space and time — a goal fully realized in the Statue of Liberty.

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Media Contact: Kelsi Monteith, Director of Communications Palm Beach Show Group, kelsi@palmbeachshow.com. Cell phone: 561 313 9180

Gallery Contact: Ray Waterhouse, Founder, Modern Fine Art, ray@modernfineart.com. Cell 917 821 3131.

Presented by the Palm Beach Show Group, the Palm Beach Show will take place over Presidents' Day Weekend, February 12-17, 2026 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

For additional information about the Palm Beach Show, please visit www.PalmBeachShow.com

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About the 2026 Palm Beach Show:

SPONSORED BY:

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 **GOLDEN GOAT**

PALM BEACH
ILLUSTRATED

FLORIDA DESIGN

Opening Night Preview Party

Thursday, February 12, 2026 2pm-9pm

- Exclusive Preview – 2pm Entry (Invitation or \$200 Multi-Day Ticket Per Person)
- VVIP Preview – 4pm Entry (Invitation or \$100 Multi-Day Ticket Per Person)
- VIP Preview – 6pm Entry (Invitation or \$50 Multi-Day Ticket Per Person)

General Show Days - (Invitation or \$30 Multi-Day General Admission Ticket Per Person)

Friday, February 13 11am – 6pm

Saturday, February 14 11am – 6pm

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Sunday, February 15 11am – 6pm
Monday, February 16 11am – 6pm
Tuesday, February 17 11am – 6pm

WHERE: Palm Beach County Convention Center
650 Okeechobee Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

ADMISSION: \$50 - \$200 for Opening Night Tickets and \$30 for General Admission Tickets
All purchased tickets are valid for all General Show Days

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please call 561.822.5440 or visit www.PalmBeachShow.com

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