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On March 17, President Roosevelt will formally dedicate the National Gallery of Art. Participating in the ceremonies, which will take place in the presence of Government dignitaries, officials of leading academic and cultural institutions, and other notables, will be Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Gallery, Paul Mellon, and Samuel H. Kress. On Tuesday, March 18, the Gallery will be open to the general public

The ceremonies will take place at one end of the large central corridors looking toward the main rotunda, with its twenty-four dark green Italian marble columns, in a setting surrounded by works of art in the Mellon and Kress collections. In the center of the rotunda is a grey-rose colored marble fountain, surmounted by the famous bronze figure of Mercury by Giovanni Bologna. Nearby, in the garden courts decorated with flowers, orchestras from the Marine Band will play during the evening.

With 501 paintings and 44 pieces of sculpture from the important Mellon and Kress Art Collections, the Gallery will take its place on the opening date with other great world art museums.

Conceived by Andrew W. Mellon and made possible with funds provided by him, the building, under construction for almost four years, was carried to completion under the direction of Paul Mellon, Donald D. Shepard and David K. E. Bruce, Trustees of The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust.