

NEWS RELEASE

National Gallery of Art  
Washington, D. C.

FOR RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 18: The first general exhibition of prints and drawings from the nationally-famous Rosenwald Collection will be opened here tomorrow at the National Gallery of Art, David E. Finley, Director, announced today.

The exhibition will present a representative cross-section of the more than 6,500 prints and drawings given to the Gallery by Lessing J. Rosenwald on March 15, 1943. This is one of the most distinguished print collections in America.

According to John Walker, Chief Curator of the Gallery, the exhibition will include a group of selections from the fifteenth century to the present time. Among the rare pieces on display will be an Adoration of the Magi, a colored woodcut dating from the earliest stage of print-making, about 1440.

"Also on display," said Mr. Walker, "will be masterpieces by Dürer, Campagnola, Rembrandt, Van Dyck and Daumier. A large illustrated catalogue has been prepared by Elizabeth Mongan, Curator of Prints of the Gallery.

"Besides familiar prints, there are a number of delightful surprises, little-known examples of sixteenth and seventeenth-century art. There is a magnificent chiaroscuro woodcut of the Crucifixion by Baldung Grűn, a pupil of Dűrer's, and a curious etching of the Meeting of the French States-General in 1614, by Ziarnko.

"A superb pen-and-ink drawing by Daumier of Two Horsemen Fighting, is one of the high points of the nineteenth-century section which also includes prints by Delacroix, Gėricault, Isabey, Degas, Corot, Gauguin, Lautrec, and Redon.

"The exhibition is rounded out by a few choice modern prints, a lithograph by the Norwegian Munch, a tragic self-portrait by Kathe Kollwitz and a Crucifixion by Rouault.

"This first general exhibition of the Rosenwald prints," added Mr. Walker, "is designed to give an impression of the scope and richness of the collection. With this splendid beginning, the National Gallery of Art is now well on its way toward the creation of a great national collection of prints."

Accompanying the exhibition there is a group of early proofs for colored etchings by the American artist, Mary Cassatt. A number of these came from the estate of the French dealer, Vollard, and have never been shown before in this country.

The entire exhibition, opening tomorrow, will continue through February 13, 1944.