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NEWS RELEASE

National Gallery of Art
Washington, D. C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, November 26: ¹⁹⁴⁶ Attached is the release prepared by Mr. Andrew C. Ritchie, Director of the Albright Art Gallery, Buffalo, N. Y., telling the story of the exhibition, Paintings Looted from Holland by the Nazis, Returned through the Efforts of the United States Armed Forces.

This exhibition will open on Saturday, December 7, 1946, at 3 o'clock, at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C., and will remain on view through Wednesday, January 1, 1947.

After the close of the exhibition at the National Gallery, the paintings will be exhibited at various museums throughout the country.

ALBRIGHT ART GALLERY

Buffalo 9, New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 14, 1946

A million dollars' worth of Dutch masterpieces - Forty-eight paintings by 37 painters of the 16th and 17th Centuries - which were looted from Holland by the Nazis, will arrive from Holland in this country Friday, Nov. 22, and will go on tour immediately to art museums in 14 cities, Andrew C. Ritchie, Director of the Albright Art Gallery, Buffalo, announced today. The paintings have been lent by the Netherlands Government as a gesture of appreciation for the work done by the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Section of the United States Army, European Theater of Operations, in restoring these art objects to Holland. The circulation of the exhibition is being supervised by the Albright Art Gallery, whose Director was one of the specialist officers with the MFA and A. The show represents a selection of the finest paintings from among the many recovered for the Netherlands by the U. S. Armed Forces.

The exhibition, "Paintings Looted From Holland, Returned Through the Efforts of the United States Armed Forces", will open Saturday, December 7, at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C., where it will be on view through Wednesday, January 1, 1947. Subsequently, the exhibition will be shown at the following galleries, which provided personnel for MFA&A:

Albright Art Gallery, Buffalo; Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven; Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton; Worcester Art Museum, Worcester; Princeton University, Museum of Historic Art, Princeton; Williams College, Williamstown; Pennsylvania

Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Newark Museum, Newark; William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art, and Atkins Museum of Fine Arts, Kansas City; California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco; University of Michigan, Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, and Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore.

The Dutch Government's wish is that the masterpieces could visit many more American cities, but, as Dr. A. R. A. Vorenkamp expresses it in his introduction to the exhibition catalogue: "an extended tour, on top of years of exile, makes owners long still more for a reunion with their paintings." Dr. Vorenkamp is professor of history of art at Smith College, served for seven and a half months as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Netherlands Army with the special assignment of identifying and helping recover Dutch art treasures that had been shipped to Germany, and was decorated by Queen Wilhelmina for his work.

Dr. Vorenkamp's introduction draws an affecting picture of the tremendous emotional lift which the first plane load of returned art treasures gave the Netherlanders after V-E Day. He pays hearty tribute to the work of the MFA and A officers in so speedily effecting the restitution of stolen treasures.

The masterpieces make up a colorful and warmly-human exhibition, as well as a distinguished one. Outstanding are such canvases as Rembrandt's "The Peahens" and his "Portrait of Ephraim Bueno"; Jan Steen's "Rural Wedding" and "Samson and Delilah";

Albright Art Gallery

- 3 -

Jacob Van Ruysdael's "View of Haarlem" and "Beach of Egmond".

The Dutch painters of the centuries represented were vitally realistic in their approach to art and found the subject matter near and dear to their hearts - such as sea, countryside, kitchen, garden, farmyard and family, - well worth painting. Portraits range from those of Holland's leaders to such low-life characterizations as Jan Steen's "Drunken Girl".

Versatile men, these early Dutch painters often occupied themselves with civic and economic affairs as well as painting. Jan Van Der Heyden, for instance, invented the fire engine and improved street lighting in Amsterdam; Aert Van Der Neer kept a saloon.

Many were specialists in certain kinds of subject matter: Philips Wouwermans was a prolific painter of horses; Floris Van Schooten, of kitchen pieces; Jacobus S. Mancadan of Bucolic scenes; Jacobus Van Loo of mythological subjects, Jan Van Huysum of dewdrops, Thomas De Keyser of Amsterdam's men of achievement; Maerten Van Heemskerck of religious pieces; and Jan Van Goyen of sky and water.

The catalogue lists officers, enlisted men and civilians who were active in the field activities of the MFA and A.

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