

FOR RELEASE: Sunday, March 7, 1948

WASHINGTON, March 6: Announcing the exhibition of Paintings from the Berlin museums, brought to this country by the U. S. Army in 1945 for safekeeping--opening at the National Gallery of Art, Wednesday, March 17, and continuing through Sunday, April 18.

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March 5, 1948

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FOR RELEASE: Sunday, March 7, 1948

Watch release date

WASHINGTON, March 6: The National Gallery of Art, at the request of the Department of the Army, will place on exhibition Wednesday, March 17, a collection from the Berlin museums of more than 200 paintings which were brought to this country by the United States Army in 1945 for safe-keeping, it was announced today by David E. Finley, Director. The exhibition will continue through Sunday, April 18.

On December 14, 1945, the Honorable Harlan Fiske Stone, late Chief Justice of the United States and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery, announced that, at the request of the Secretary of State, the Trustees of the National Gallery of Art accepted temporary custody of the paintings pending their return to Germany. Approximately 200 paintings arrived in New York December 7, 1945, aboard the army transport S.S. James Parker, and were transported to Washington. They were installed in a special air-conditioned storage room at the Gallery.

National Gallery of Art

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"At the National Gallery every precaution", Mr. Finley said, "has been taken to insure the proper preservation of these great paintings for posterity."

Among the pictures to be exhibited are fifteen paintings by Rembrandt, five by Rubens, five by Botticelli, two by Peter Breughel the Elder, two by Vermeer, three by Raphael, five by Titian, three by Watteau, five by Jan van Eyck and other great works by Fra Angelico, Giovanni Bellini, Lucas Cranach, Dürer, Giorgione, Frans Hals, Holbein, Fra Filippo Lippi, Poussin, Tintoretto, Lucas van Leyden, Velazquez and others.

While at the National Gallery the paintings have been inspected every day by members of the staff, and have been shown only to Gallery officers and qualified museum officials.

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