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NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

WASHINGTON, July 9: An exhibition of "American Folk Art", consisting of 104 watercolor renderings from the Index of American Design, illustrating early American arts and crafts, will be placed on display at the National Gallery of Art on July 18th, it was announced today by David E. Finley, Director. The exhibition will continue until September 7th.

A section of the exhibit will be devoted to showing how the early American home was furnished. On display will be renderings of quilts, printed cottons and woven coverlets, decorations and furniture, and even kitchen utensils. Also prominent in the exhibition will be Pennsylvania Dutch designs, including illustrations of wood carving, painted furniture, decorated ceramics and textiles.

These illustrations in color are selected from the Index of American Design, which comprises more than 22,000 watercolor drawings and photographs of American design in the field of folk art, from the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries. The Index was assembled under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration, as a record of American folk design.

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Wide in scope, the exhibition will also include illustrations of religious panels and wooden chest designs from the Southwest, as well as bandboxes, tavern signs, hobby horses and dolls. Weathervanes provide a group of striking illustrations, such as an Indian with his bow and arrow, and a model of a fire engine pulled by a team of horses. Illustrations of early dresses and costume accessories form another group on display. Examples of the use of the Index motifs in modern applied design will also be shown.

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