

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

For immediate release:  
July 27, 1949

David H. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced that Michelangelo's statue of "David" from the Bargello Museum in Florence, which has been on loan from the Italian Government to the National Gallery in Washington, has been returned to Italy. A cablegram has been received from Dr. Filippo Desai, Director of The Bargello, saying that the famous statue had arrived in excellent condition and had been ceremoniously re-installed in The Bargello.

The statue was brought to this country and returned to Italy by the United States Navy. Its installation in the National Gallery of Art was completed in time for the Inaugural Reception of President and Mrs. Truman, which was held in the Gallery on January 20, 1949. During the following six months until the statue was taken off exhibition for its return to Italy, the National Gallery was visited by over 791,000 persons, most of whom took advantage of the opportunity to view this beautiful statue by Michelangelo, so generously lent to this country by the Italian Government.

*(Released to 4 Local Papers)*