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NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART  
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MASTERPIECES OF PRE-COLUMBIAN GOLD  
TO BE EXHIBITED AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

WASHINGTON, January 17: David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announces the opening of an exhibition of MASTERPIECES OF PRE-COLUMBIAN GOLD from the Gold Museum of the Banco de la República, Bogotá, Colombia, on January 20th to continue through February 21st. There will be a preview on Tuesday evening, January 19th, for Government officials and other invited guests.

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The exhibition contains 80 of the finest pieces of pre-Hispanic goldwork from the unrivaled collection of the Museo del Oro. It includes a complete set of adornments for a Calima chieftain, consisting of a repoussé diadem, ear spools and bangles, repoussé nose ornament, pectoral, armlets, and bracelets with bangles; a life-size conch shell made of a single sheet of gold; elaborately cast pins in the form of scepters; Chibcha and Darién cast figurines; an exquisite Quimbaya alligator cast in a single piece; and many other unusual pieces which have never been exhibited in this country. Professor Pérez de Barradas, who has written the introduction to the completely illustrated catalogue, with English text, estimates that the pieces included range from the beginning of the Christian era, or earlier, almost to the time of the Spanish Conquest.

The Gold Museum was formed in 1939 by the Bank of the Republic of Colombia in an effort to collect and preserve a part of the cultural and artistic patrimony of the nation. A leading role in its foundation and service to the public has been played by Dr. Luís-Angel Arango the present Managing Director of the Bank. Within the short period of 15 years, the collections have grown from the Quimbaya urn featured in this exhibition to over 6,700 items. This is the first time that any of these objects have been exhibited outside the Bank.



After its initial showing at the National Gallery, the exhibition will go to The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, where it will be shown from March 1st through April 11th, and thereafter to The M. H. de Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco.

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