

Mr. Cavins

NEWS RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, April 14: David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that a special loan exhibition entitled "A CENTURY AND A HALF OF ARGENTINE PAINTING" will be opened at the National Gallery on Tuesday afternoon, April 17th, at 3 o'clock, in the presence of His Excellency the Argentine Ambassador, Dr. Adolfo Vicchi. This exhibition was made possible through the cooperation of the National Gallery of Fine Arts of Buenos Aires, the Museum of History of Argentina, and many private collectors. The exhibition comes to this country under the auspices of the Argentine Embassy as a gesture of friendship and good-will on the part of the Government of Argentina.

The 113 paintings included were selected and assembled under the direction of a Committee consisting of Señor Julio Payró, well-known art critic; Señor José Marcó del Pont, and Señor Alberto Prando, Counselor in charge of cultural affairs of the Argentine Embassy in Washington. This exhibition will give the visitor an opportunity to survey the evolution of Argentine painting over the last 150 years.

The earliest works are predominantly portraits of outstanding personalities of the time, and scenes depicting the life and landscape of Argentina's early settlers. They date

from 1810 when Argentina gained its independence from Spain, and are the work of both primitive painters and those well-versed in contemporary European tradition. Such artists as Vidal, Rugendas, Palliere, and d'Hastrel are included, along with 19th century works of the portraitists of the "porteños", such as Gil de Castro, Pellegrini, Morel, and Pueyrredón. The late 19th and early 20th centuries are represented by such painters as Sívori, Schiaffino, Malharro, Cárcova, Fader, Bermudez, and Weiss de Rossi. Most recent works are by contemporaries Victorica, Pettoruti, Spilimbergo, Forner, Soldi, and many younger Argentine painters.

Of exceptional interest are three battle scenes by Cándido López; "Carro Aguatero" and "Matadero del Sudeste" by Essex Vidal; the portrait of General San Martín by Gil de Castro; "Combate de Caballería" and "Macedonia Escardó" by Morel; "Un Alto en el Camino" and the portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Calzadilla by Pueyrredon; "Los mantones" by Fader; "Desnudo" by Victorica; and "La Esposa del Pintor" by Sívori.

As Mr. Finley points out in his introduction to the catalogue, "The Collection has come to this country at an opportune time when there is increasing interest in the history and culture of Argentina. There also is a feeling of greater solidarity than ever before between the peoples of our two countries. These works of art will contribute to a better understanding, on the part of the American people, of the history, the life and aspirations of the people of Argentina."

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The exhibition will be on view at the National Gallery of Art through May 16, and will then be seen in Louisville, Kentucky; San Francisco, California; and Chicago, Illinois.

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