

10/57

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
Washington 25, D. C.

REpublic 7-4215, Extension 242

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D. C., October 25: John Walker, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that the EXHIBITION OF MASTERPIECES OF KOREAN ART will open here on December 15. The exhibition is being held under the auspices of the Government of the Republic of Korea, whose Minister of Education, Kyu Nam Choi, states: "By sending this exhibition the Korean people mean to express their gratitude to the American nation." It has been organized with the cooperation of the Department of State, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the American Korean Foundation. The exhibition closes at the National Gallery on January 12, and will then be shown in the following museums: The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Seattle Art Museum; The Minneapolis Institute of Art; California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco; Los Angeles County Museum; and Honolulu Academy of Arts. After the Honolulu showing the exhibition will be returned to Korea by the United States Navy.

The objects, selected by a joint Korean and American committee, were packed with the cooperation of United States Army personnel in Korea and transported to the United States by the United States Navy. The display at the National Gallery has been specially designed by Mr. Benjamin Lawless and Mr. Robert B. Widder of the staff of the Smithsonian Institution. The exhibition presents a cross-section of Korean art from 200 B.C. up to about 1900, the product of what Mr. Walker has called "one of the oldest and finest cultures in the world." There will be a total of 187 objects: 18 of gold, including three jeweled crowns of the 5th-6th century A.D.; 10 of stoneware and tile; 23 gilt bronzes; 34 paintings; and 102 potteries, including superb examples of the celebrated Korean celadon (pale green) ware. There will be a completely illustrated catalog with historical introduction and descriptions of the individual objects.

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