

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON 25 DC • REpublic 7-4215 extension 247
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WASHINGTON, D.C. December 2, 1960: THE CIVIL WAR, A CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION OF EYEWITNESS DRAWINGS will open at the National Gallery of Art on January 8, John Walker, Director, announced today.

This major assemblage of original drawings made at the front is the first ever to be presented. Until now, the Civil War has been known mostly through engravings and paintings made later or through photographs of still scenes. These drawings made at the scene of action, however, are the eyewitness documents of artist-reporters sent to the field by the illustrated weekly newspapers and have a sense of vivid actuality and immediate impact not given by any other material of the Civil War. While many of the important battles from Bull Run to Appomattox are represented in the exhibition, it is the life of the ordinary soldier that comes most vividly to life with its humor, its tragedy, its boredom in camp, in training, and on the march, as well as the effect of the fighting on citizens in overrun areas, and the grim devastation of war.

The exhibition of 281 drawings and water colors, assembled from 18 collections and private lenders, will be on view at the National Gallery from January 8 through February 12, 1961. It will not be shown in its entirety elsewhere, but following the

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showing at the National Gallery, sections of the exhibition will be circulated to over 20 museums by the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service. An illustrated catalogue with an essay on the art and artists of the Civil War will be published to accompany the exhibition.

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