

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 31, 1961: An exhibition of the Collection of the Honorable and Mrs. W. Averell Harriman will open to the public at the National Gallery of Art on Sunday, April 16, at 2:00 p.m., John Walker, Director of the Gallery, announced today. The 49 works of painting, drawing and sculpture will be on view until 10:00 p.m. that night, and for four weeks thereafter, through Sunday, May 14th.

The exhibition inaugurates a new policy of the National Gallery, Mr. Walker said. This show will be the first of an annual series exhibiting in the country's national gallery the great private collections formed throughout the nation. It is hoped that these exhibits will not only attract the attention of the country to the foresight and taste of American collectors, but will give the American public an opportunity to view works normally accessible only in private homes.

The Harriman Collection, comprising works by the greatest names in art of the last hundred years - Renoir, Cézanne, Gauguin, Van Gogh, Toulouse-Lautrec, Degas, Matisse, Picasso - has hung until recently in the Harriman house just off Fifth Avenue in New York. With the recent appointment by President Kennedy of Mr. Harriman as Ambassador-at-Large, many of the pictures have been moved to decorate the walls of his Georgetown house.

Fortunately none of this group was among the seven American paintings belonging to the Harrimans that burned in early March in the Governor's Mansion in Albany, now occupied by another great collector, Nelson Rockefeller.

One of the most beautiful of the Harriman pictures is the Roses by Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890). The swirling profusion of flowers, against an acid-green background, was painted only a few weeks before the artist's suicide at the age of 37 in July, 1890.

Cézanne (1839-1906), generally considered the father of modern art, is brilliantly represented by five pictures, including two of his most impressive landscapes, the large Mont Ste.-Victoire and Au Bord de l'Eau, both dating from the period of the late 1880's.

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Two of the Cézanne's have particularly interesting histories. La Lutte d'Amour, the Struggle of Love, a composition of nudes, was once owned by Auguste Renoir; and a Still Life, from the 1890's, came from the collection of Claude Monet at Giverny.

Another picture in the exhibition had a similarly illustrious owner: Picasso's Lady with a Fan, painted in his "Blue" Period (1905), was once the property of the American poet Gertrude Stein who, living in Paris, was one of Picasso's earliest and most vocal supporters. The other Picasso in the exhibition, one of the great Mother and Child studies of the early 1920's, dates after his epoch-making Cubist period, but is nevertheless tenderly representational in style.

One of the most famous pictures in the exhibition is Gauguin's Words of the Devil (Parau na te varua ino). Perhaps an illustration of the "ancient Eve" of a letter Gauguin wrote to Strindberg, it captures the sense of mystery and jungle fear of the South Sea Islanders among whom the artist lived.

Painted the year after his departure from Europe, the picture's sensual awareness of evil contrasts strikingly with a Brittany Landscape by Gauguin in the exhibition, painted the year before he left, where the influence of children's book illustration lends an entirely different mood.

An unusual opportunity is offered by the exhibition to evaluate the work of two 20th century masters with whom the Harrimans were intimately connected as patrons.

André Derain (1880-1954) is represented by a group of 12 paintings and water-colors, providing a fascinating retrospective of the work of this French painter.

The major American artist, Walt Kuhn (1877-1949), can be seen in seven oil paintings, including the celebrated Seated White Clown of 1929.

In his foreword to the fully illustrated catalogue published for this exhibition, John Walker writes: "This selection of works of art assembled by the Honorable and Mrs. W. Averell Harriman introduces a new series of exhibitions which the National Gallery of Art hopes to hold annually. These exhibitions are intended to bring to the attention of the American public the great collections formed in this country. The National Gallery of Art is grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Harriman for this opportunity to show many of the works of art they acquired - paintings, sculpture, and drawings, remarkable for their quality. There could not be a more fitting introduction to our new series of exhibitions."

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A special preview of the exhibition will be given to invited guests of the Gallery on Saturday afternoon, April 15th, following a luncheon given by Mr. and Mrs. Walker.

A complete checklist of the exhibited objects is attached.

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For photographs and further information contact J. Carter Brown,
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Extension 248.

Checklist of Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture in
THE MARIE AND AVERELL HARRIMAN COLLECTION

EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
April 16 - May 14, 1961

Jean Baptiste CHARDIN (1699-1779)	<u>Still Life with a White Mug</u>
Honoré DAUMIER (1808-1879)	<u>The Barker</u> (Water Color)
Gustave COURBET (1819-1877)	<u>Boats on a Beach</u> <u>Landscape near the Banks of</u> <u>the Indre</u>
Edgar DEGAS (1834-1917)	<u>La Petite Danseuse de Quatorze Ans</u> (Bronze and Cloth) <u>Girl Drying Herself</u> (Pastel) <u>Seated Dancer</u> (Charcoal heightened with pastel) <u>Standing Dancer</u> (Pencil heightened with white)
Paul CÉZANNE (1839-1906)	<u>Man with Pipe</u> <u>Le Mont Sainte-Victoire, Environs</u> <u>de Gardanne</u> <u>La Lutte d'Amour</u> <u>Au Bord de l'Eau</u> <u>Still Life</u>
Auguste RENOIR (1841-1919)	<u>Mademoiselle Demarsy</u> <u>Head of a Girl</u> (Sanguine)
Paul GAUGUIN (1848-1903)	<u>Brittany Landscape</u> <u>Words of the Devil</u>
"Le Douanier" ROUSSEAU (1844-1910)	<u>Rendezvous in the Forest</u>
Vincent VAN GOGH (1853-1890)	<u>Roses</u>
Georges SEURAT (1859-1891)	<u>Les Grues et La Percée</u> <u>Workers</u>
Henri de TOULOUSE-LAUTREC (1864-1901)	<u>Lady with a Dog</u> (Cardboard)
Henri MATISSE (1869-1954)	<u>Still Life with Pineapple</u> <u>The Blue Hat</u> <u>Standing Figure</u> (Pencil) <u>Seated Figure</u> (Pencil)
Pablo PICASSO (1881-)	<u>Mother and Child</u> <u>Lady with a Fan</u>

(more)

Checklist - Harriman Collection (continued)

Walt KUHN (1877-1949)

Red Apples and Pineapple
Dryad
The White Clown
Zinnias
Hare and Hunting Boots
Pine on a Knoll
Green Apples and Scoop

André DRAIN (1880-1954)

La Route d'Ollifères
Le Mont Olympe
Girl with Velvet Ribbon
The Kitchen Table
Portrait of Eve Curie
Still Life
Portrait of Marie Harriman
Mediterranean Landscape
The Green Scarf
Landscape
Landscape (Sepia wash)
Landscape (Sepia wash)

Giorgio de CHIRICO (1888-)

Roses
Horses

All works are oil paintings
unless otherwise specified.

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