

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. May 16, 1961: John Walker, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that fifteen Pittsburgh High School students will be flown to Washington this weekend to visit the National Gallery. The students are the winners of a contest in the Pittsburgh school system for the best essay in each school on a topic in the history of art. Study materials for their research provided by the National Gallery, and their transportation and expenses, have all been made possible by a grant from The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust, of Pittsburgh. A list of their names and their high schools is attached.

The contest, whose prize-winners are being given a four-day trip to Washington as their reward, was designed to stimulate an interest in art among students, and to give them an opportunity to study the collection of the National Gallery of Art. After a month of research, contestants wrote essays, during a special three-hour period, on various Old Masters in the collection of the National Gallery of Art.

The students, accompanied by two teachers, leave Pittsburgh Thursday, May 18. On Friday the Gallery will be their host at lunch, before and after which they will be given tours of the collections. On Saturday they will return to the Gallery and be allowed to choose reproductions of works they have seen to take back to their schools, as well as some for their own use. The rest of the time will be spent sightseeing in Washington, including special tours of the White House and the Capitol arranged by Representative William S. Moorhead of Pennsylvania. On Sunday they will visit Mount Vernon, returning to Pittsburgh at the end of the day.

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