

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON 25 DC • REpublic 7-4215 extension 248

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SUNDAY PAPERS, DECEMBER 3.

Washington, D.C., December 3, 1961. John Walker, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that the Gallery has acquired an important still life by the Dutch artist Jan Davidsz. de Heem (1606-1683/84). The painting, a Vase of Flowers, was purchased from a private dealer, unlike the Fragonard which the Gallery bought at public auction in New York on November 15.

The picture will be on view in Gallery 44 today, December 3, at 10:00 a.m. This will be the last in the series of Sundays on which the National Gallery is opening four additional hours, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., to accommodate the crowds visiting the exhibition of Tutankhamun Treasures which closes tonight.

"If I were to choose one picture to summarize the achievement of Dutch and Flemish flower-painting," Mr. Walker said, "it could well be the National Gallery's new de Heem. It is a brilliant solution of the problem of profusion and control. Not restricted to a variety of flowers, the picture includes vegetables and insects and reptiles as well. Each detail has been painted with a desire for scientific exactitude, down to the last hair on a bumblebee's back. The colors, set off against a luminous dark ground, add to the sense of richness. And yet, the picture is not without a vaguely sinister uneasiness, symbolic, in the seventeenth-century tradition, of the transitory nature of life on earth."

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For black-and-white photographs, color transparencies, or further information, contact J. Carter Brown, National Gallery of Art, Washington 25, D.C., REpublic 7-4215, Extension 248.