

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:

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WASHINGTON, D.C., February 16, 1964: The National Gallery of Art and the American Academy in Rome announce jointly today the creation of three annual Chester Dale Fellowships for painters, sculptors, and art historians.

Chester Dale, late President of the National Gallery who died on December 16, 1962, bequeathed \$500,000 to the Trustees of the National Gallery of Art, the income of which to be used to provide fellowships for painters, sculptors, and historians and critics of the fine arts of the western world.

This month, the juries of the American Academy in Rome will select one candidate in each of these fields for one year Chester Dale fellowships beginning October 1, 1964. The fellowships will enable the recipients to carry on their studies at the American Academy in Rome. Recommendations by the selection juries of the American Academy are subject to the approval of the Director and Trustees of the National Gallery of Art.

Founded in 1894, the American Academy in Rome was chartered in 1905 by the Congress of the United States to promote the study and practice of the fine arts and to aid and stimulate the education and training of architects, painters, sculptors and other artists. The Academy was consolidated with the American School of Classical Studies in Rome in 1913 under an amendment to the charter by which the purposes of the Academy were widened to include the study and investigation of the archaeology, literature and history of the classical and later periods. All told, 428 young Americans have won the coveted Rome Prize Fellowship.

The Academy's facilities available to its fellows include study rooms, studios, living quarters, dining rooms, and a world-renowned library which attracts many Italian and other foreign scholars who are, to mutual advantage, brought into contact with Americans there.

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While no formal instruction is given at the Academy, each year distinguished American and European architects, artists, composers and scholars are invited to be in residence to help and advise the fellows concerning their studies. The program for the Academy's fellows includes organized study trips, concerts, exhibitions, and occasional lectures by scholars who are in Italy for professional purposes.

Mr. Paul Mellon, President of the National Gallery of Art, said: "I am delighted that the Trustees of the American Academy in Rome have agreed to a partnership with the National Gallery of Art in the administration of this annual program to help creative artists and students of the visual arts. I look forward to a highly successful joint undertaking."

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