

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

**NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SHAH COMES TO U.S. FOR NATIONAL GALLERY EXHIBIT

WASHINGTON, D.C. March 23, 1964. John Walker, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that the Shah of Iran, Mohamad Reza Pahlavi, will come to Washington to inaugurate the exhibition of "7,000 YEARS OF IRANIAN ART" which will open to the public on Sunday, June 7, 1964, at the National Gallery of Art.

The Shah will be the guest of Mr. Paul Mellon, President of the National Gallery of Art, at a small dinner in his honor at the Sulgrave Club on Friday evening, June 5. After dinner the Shah will be given a private preview of the exhibition. On Saturday, June 6, the exhibition will be open to invited guests from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Gallery and exhibition will be open to the public on Sunday, June 7, from 2:00 to 10:00 p.m.

The exhibition will remain on view at the Gallery through July 19. It will subsequently be seen in Kansas City, Mo., Houston, Cleveland, Boston, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

The exhibition has been organized and will be circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

"7,000 YEARS OF IRANIAN ART" will comprise over 750 objects, many of them of gold and silver. A third of these are being lent by the Archaeological Museum in Tehran; the remainder will come from the private collection of Mohsen Foroughi, formerly Dean of the Department of Fine Arts of the University of Tehran.

Many objects that have been only recently discovered will be included in the show, notably the Hassanlu Gold Bowl of the 9th century B.C., discovered in 1958 by the American archaeologist R. Dyson of the University of Pennsylvania. The scope of the exhibition will include pottery, metalwork, glass, textiles and paintings from that part of the world once known as Persia, dating from pre-history to the mid-19th century.

The objects from the Tehran Museums have been selected by

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Dr. Richard Ettinghausen, head curator of Near Eastern Art, Freer Gallery of Art. Objects from the Foroughi collection have been selected by Professor Roman Ghirshman, Director of the French Archaeological Mission in Iran. A similar exhibition toured six European capitals during 1961-63.

The exhibition will occupy the Central Gallery and successive rooms on the Ground Floor of the National Gallery of Art. A copiously illustrated catalogue with introductory texts by Professor Edith Porada of Columbia University, New York, and Dr. Richard Ettinghausen is in preparation.

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Further information and photographs through Mrs. John A. Pope, Chief, Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, Washington, D.C. 20560. Telephone 381-5391.

7,000 YEARS OF IRANIAN ART

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(Incomplete)

1964

June 7 - July 19	National Gallery of Art Washington, D.C.
October 10 - November 22	William Rockhill Nelson Gallery- Atkins Museum Kansas City, Missouri
December 12 - January 24, 1965	Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Texas

1965

February 17 - March 28	Cleveland Art Museum Cleveland, Ohio
April 15 - May 30	Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Massachusetts
June 19 - July 31	California Palace of the Legion of Honor San Francisco, California
August 17 - September 30	Los Angeles County Museum of Art Los Angeles, California