

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

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WASHINGTON, D.C. October 4, 1964. John Walker, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that an exhibition of DRAWINGS OF THE 15th AND 16th CENTURIES from the Wallraf-Richartz Museum, Cologne, Germany, will open to the public on Sunday, October 4, at 2 p.m.

The exhibition consists of seventy drawings and eight illuminated manuscripts from Germany, Italy, and the Low Countries, and includes major works by Leonardo da Vinci and Albrecht Dürer. The show closes November 1. It has been organized and will subsequently be circulated by The American Federation of Arts. An itinerary is attached.

Except for one Dürer drawing, the drawings are seen for the first time in America, and many of these were little known even in their native Cologne until an exhibition a few years ago in the newly-arranged Print Room of the Cologne Museum. Until then over half the drawings had remained unpublished.

Opportunities to see in this country original works by Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) are extremely rare. The drawing in the Cologne exhibition has sketches by Leonardo on both sides. On the recto, or front, are ink and silverpoint studies of eleven figures. These were drawn in preparation for Leonardo's great unfinished altarpiece, The Adoration of the Magi, painted for the monastery of San Donato and now in the Uffizi Gallery, Florence. On the verso are two studies of a crab. Dr. Horst Keller, Director of the Wallraf-Richartz Museum, writes of this drawing in the catalogue: "It reveals...Leonardo's mighty and pulsating feeling for existence in his Adonis-like youthful kings, bowing in adoration before the Infant Christ, and executed in the most delicate pen style...It is as if the understanding this universal spirit had of art and of life had been put in one great double-sheet, and this as completely as it is seldom found in the world of drawings."

(more)

Also in the exhibition are three drawings by Germany's greatest draughtsman, Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528). The powerful Trotting Stallion, white against a black background, is dated 1503. It may be the earliest known proportion study of a horse. One scholar has pointed out that the figure fits a grid of 16 squares based on the length of the horse's head. Dürer's researches into proportion in nature paralleled those of his older contemporary, Leonardo.

Of the other two Dürer drawings, The Virgin and Child is particularly rare, having been executed in brush and water color, a medium Dürer seldom used. As it cannot be connected with any work of Dürer's as a preliminary study, it presumably was an independent finished drawing. It was discovered only in 1925 among the anonymous drawings of the German School in the collection.

The main emphasis of the exhibition is the German School, with drawings by Dürer's contemporaries (among them Hans Schäufelein, Erhard Schön) and the two succeeding generations, ending in Mannerism (Hans von Aachen). The Italian section includes drawings by Andrea del Sarto, Luca Cambiaso, Palma Giovane, and others, with an early anonymous Lombard study of a lion and a bear. A third group represents artists from the Netherlands, and includes drawings by Jacob de Gheyn and Hendrick Goltzius. Finally, there is a group of eight illuminated manuscripts from or related to the School of Cologne.

The drawing collection of the Wallraf-Richartz Museum from which this exhibition was selected goes back in part to the Cologne Jesuit College, which was closed in 1773 and taken over the following year by the city of Cologne. In the 19th century the collection was enriched by the Cologne collector Ferdinand Franz Wallraf.

Entrance to the exhibition and to the National Gallery is free. A fully-illustrated catalogue of the exhibition, with critical notes by Dr. Hella Robels, Assistant Curator of the Print Room of the Wallraf-Richartz Museum, and an introduction by Dr. Horst Keller, the Director, is available from the National Gallery of Art for \$0.75, postpaid.

DRAWINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH AND SIXTEENTH CENTURIES
FROM THE WALLRAF-RICHARTZ MUSEUM, COLOGNE

ITINERARY

October 4 - November 1, 1964	National Gallery of Art Washington, D.C.
November 16, 1964 - January 2, 1965	The Pierpont Morgan Library New York, N.Y.
January 17 - February 15, 1965	The Baltimore Museum of Art Baltimore, Md.
March 3 - April 4, 1965	William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art - Atkins Museum of Fine Arts Kansas City, Missouri