

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

POET STEPHEN SPENDER  
TO LECTURE AT NATIONAL GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, D. C. February 29, 1968. The distinguished British poet and critic Stephen Spender will deliver the 17th annual A. W. Mellon Lectures at the National Gallery of Art, beginning Sunday (March 3) at 4 p.m.

The six lectures, under the title "Imaginative Literature and Painting," will continue on successive Sundays through April 7. Admission to the National Gallery auditorium where the illustrated talks will be given is free and no tickets are required for entrance.

During 1965 and 1966 Mr. Spender was Consultant in Poetry in English at the Library of Congress. This past year he was a Research Fellow at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, and lectured on the subject of British and American poetry at Northwestern University in Illinois.

His published works include "Engaged in Writing," "Selected Poems," "The Creative Element," and the autobiographical "World Within World."

The A. W. Mellon Lectures were launched in 1952 with endowments from the Avalon and Old Dominion Foundations. Their

purpose: to bring to the people of the United States, at the National Gallery of Art, the results of the best contemporary thought and scholarship bearing upon the subject of the fine arts.

Among past A. W. Mellon lecturers have been biographer Lord David Cecil, historian Isaiah Berlin, philosopher Jacques Maritain, and the former Director of the National Gallery, London, Sir Kenneth Clark.