

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURE

FROM NATHAN CUMMINGS COLLECTION EXHIBITED AT NATIONAL GALLERY

WASHINGTON, D. C. June 16, 1970. Eighty selections of 19th and 20th century paintings and sculpture from one of the country's most distinguished private collections will be exhibited this summer at the National Gallery from Sunday, June 28th, through Labor Day, September 7th.

The selections were made from the collection of industrialist and philanthropist, Nathan Cummings. Included are prime examples by Claude Monet (1840-1926), Édouard Vuillard (1868-1940), Wassily Kandinsky (1868-1944), Pablo Picasso (born 1881), Fernand Léger (1881-1955), Henry Moore (born 1898), and Alberto Giacometti (1901-1966), and twenty-nine other major painters and sculptors of the past hundred years.

Exceptionally fine is a well-known and appealing portrait by Claude Monet of his son, Jean, at about the age of three, astride a toy horse. Entitled Jean Monet on a Mechanical Horse, the picture was painted in 1872, the same year that Monet painted Impression, Sunrise, which, when exhibited two years later in a Paris salon, was to give the Impressionist movement its distinctive label.

On view outside the National Gallery, at the Constitution

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Avenue entrance and on the Mall at Seventh Street and Madison Drive, are two monumental examples of sculpture by Henry Moore and Antoine Poncet. Moore is the internationally-known contemporary British sculptor. Poncet is a French sculptor, born in 1928, and the grandson of Maurice Denis, one of the founders of the Nabis movement.

The selections for this exhibition were made jointly by the National Gallery and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Metropolitan Museum will show the collection during the summer of 1971.

"For more than twenty-five years," J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery, commented, "museums and universities, both in the United States and abroad, have been benefited in a variety of ways by the generosity of Nathan Cummings. His concern for the arts has been both deep and broad.

"The Cummings' collection, however, expresses - as nothing else could - this genuine concern and interest, and we are particularly pleased by its diversity and strength."

Mr. Cummings will be the guest speaker in the Gallery's regular Sunday afternoon lecture series at 4 o'clock on Sunday, June 28th. He will speak about his art collecting experiences and answer questions from the audience.

The exhibition has been organized and installed at the National Gallery by curator David E. Rust and Mrs. Carol Cutler, former art critic of the International Herald Tribune.

Other particularly notable paintings on view include Picasso's Woman with a Flower, a colorful example of the early thirties; a large Vuillard entitled Public Garden (1918); an outstanding

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example from Léger's famous Bicycle Riders series (1944); In the Garden (1883), a picture of the artist's favorite model by Berthe Morisot (1841-1895); one of the important last works, entitled Bathers (1890/95) by Edgar Degas (1834-1917); and the original working sketches in five panels by Raoul Dufy (1877-1953), commissioned by La Compagnie Parisienne d'Électricité for an immense mural for the electrical industry's pavilion at the 1937 International Fair in Paris.

Among groups of works by a single artist, also reflecting the strength of the Cummings collection, are multiple examples by Léger (six), Kandinsky (five), Degas (five), Rouault (four), Gauguin (three), Picasso (three), Braque (three), and Soutine (three).

The exhibition catalogue includes an introduction by the noted British art historian Douglas Cooper, who also acted as consultant in selecting the exhibition. All works are illustrated, 14 in color. Price \$4.00.

An Acoustiguide tour, prepared by the Gallery's Educational Department and narrated by the Director, is available at the entrance to the exhibition.

A new summer series of lectures on Sunday afternoons at 4 o'clock will be presented during the exhibition. These lectures will cover the history of modern art, discussing its important movements from 19th-century Realism, Impressionism, and Post-Impressionism through contemporary painting and sculpture and the work of eighteen major artists including Monet, Gauguin, Picasso, Braque, Kandinsky, Léger, and sculptors Giacometti and Moore. The series begins on July 5th and continues through

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August 30th. It is open free of charge to the public. Illustrated by slides, the talks will be given in the auditorium by members of the National Gallery staff.

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For photographs, catalogues, and further information contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C. 20565. Area Code 202, 737-4215, ext. 224.

Background Sheet for WETA Newsfront Interview with Nathan Cummings

The National Gallery is opening this week (of June 22nd) as its special summer exhibition, selections of paintings and sculpture from one of the country's most distinguished private collections, - that of industrialist and philanthropist Nathan Cummings.

These selections include prime examples by some of the best known artists of the past 100 years, - Picasso, Monet, Dufy, Degas, Braque, Giacometti and Moore, among others, - ranging in style from Impressionism

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through contemporary abstract sculpture.

Two large pieces of sculpture by prominent contemporary British sculptor, Henry Moore, and one of the up-and-coming French sculptors working in France today, Antoine Poncet, will be placed outside the Gallery, - the Moore at the Constitution Avenue entrance and the Poncet at the corner of Madison Drive and Seventh Street.

Altogether there are 36 artists represented and a total of 80 works

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of art on view.

The exhibition will be on view through Labor Day. Selected jointly by the National Gallery and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Collection will go on view at the Metropolitan next summer.

J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery, has expressed the Gallery's great pleasure with the diversity and strength of the Cummings collection.

"For more than twenty-five years," he has commented, "museums and universities both in the United States and

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abroad have been benefited in a variety of ways by the generosity of Nathan Cummings. His concern for the arts has been both deep and broad. His collection, however, expresses as nothing else could - this genuine concern and interest."

Mr. Brown will give a luncheon on Friday, the 26th, for a group of prominent businessmen and several members of Congress who, after lunch, will be invited to preview this exhibition. The businessmen are members of the Business Committee for the Arts, a group established in

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1967 by David Rockefeller and C.

Douglas Dillon for stimulating sup-

port in industry and commerce in

cultural institutions today. Mr.

Cummings is a member of the Business

Committee for the Arts. The sub-

ject of the luncheon address, to be

given by Gavin McBain, president of

Bristol-Meyers, is "The Importance

of the Arts to Business and the

Nation."

Background on Nathan Cummings

Mr. Cummings is founder and

honorary chairman of Consolidated

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Foods Corporation, which is popularly known for introducing the Sara Lee-line of frozen baked goods. He maintains homes at Charlevoix, Michigan, and the Waldorf Towers in New York and offices in Chicago and New York. He holds numerous honorary degrees and decorations, among which are the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor from France, the Cavalier of the Order of Merit from Italy, and the Commendador of the Order of Merit from Peru.

Mr. Cummings was made an Honorary Trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of

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Art this Spring. His collection of ancient Peruvian ceramics went to the Metropolitan in 1963.

Mr. Cummings first started collecting seriously about 1942. As noted, his collection of paintings and sculpture is especially strong in Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works.

The National Gallery has asked Mr. Cummings to be the guest speaker in their regular afternoon lecture series at 4:00 on Sunday the 28th. Mr. Cummings will speak on his art collecting experiences and answer questions from the audience.

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FACT SHEET

NATHAN CUMMINGS
founder and honorary chairman
CONSOLIDATED FOODS CORPORATION

BIRTH:

St. John, N.B., Canada, October 14, 1896. Son of David and Esther, (Saxe) Cummings

RELIGION:

Jewish

MARITAL:

Married Ruth Lillian Kellert, December 30, 1919 (died March 31, 1952)
Children: Beatrice V. Mayer, Herbert Kellert Cummings, Alan Harris Cummings. Married Joanne Ruth Toor, August 9, 1959.

SCHOOL:

Student public school. Economist Trng. School, New York City.

BUSINESS SUMMARY:

In retail shoe business 1914-17; wholesale shoe business 1917-24; shoe manufacturing 1924-30; importing general merchandise 1930-34; manufacturing biscuits and candy 1934-38 (all in Canada).

In 1939, Mr. Cummings was named president of the C. D. Kenny Co., Baltimore, and through acquisitions and internal growth, formed what today is Consolidated Foods Corporation. Major acquisitions included -- Sprague Warner & Co., Chicago 1942; Western Grocer Co. and Marshall Canning Co., Marshalltown, Iowa, 1944; Reid, Murdoch & Co., Chicago, 1945; Food Division, H. D. Lee Co., 1950; Gentry Co., U. S. Products Corp., Ltd., and Union Sugar Co., 1951; Weideman Co. of Cleveland and Royal Blue Stores, Chicago, 1952; Gibbs & Co., Baltimore, and Ocoma Foods Co., Omaha, 1955; Piggly Wiggly Midwest Co., Inc., and Kitchens of Sara Lee, 1956; Lawson Milk Co., 1958; Shasta Water Co., 1960; Eagle Food Centers, Inc., 1961; Michigan Fruit Cannery, Inc., and Van Wagenberg-Festen, N.V., Heusden, Holland, 1962; Booth Fisheries Corp., and Chicken Delight, Inc., 1963; Joe Lowe Company, 1964; The E. Kahn's Sons Co., Idaho Frozen Foods, Oxford Chemical Corp., Lyons-Magnus, Inc., Olympic Mfg., Co., and Hockwald Co., 1966; Conso Products, Inc., Pearce-Young-Angel, Abbey Rents, Bloch & Guggenheimer, Graber Mfg., and Consolidated Stamp Mfg., 1967; Electrolux, Fuller Brush, Gant Shirtmakers, 1968.

DIRECTORSHIPS, ASSOCIATIONS:

Honorary Chairman of Board and Chairman, Executive Committee, Consolidated Foods Corporation, Chicago; Chairman of Board, Associated Products, New York; Director, Society Corporation and Society National Bank, Cleveland; Director, Rothschild Enterprises, Inc.; Member, New York State Chamber of Commerce; Governing Life Member of Art Institute of Chicago; Benefactor, Metropolitan Museum of Art; Patron, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts; Patron, Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts; Member Citizens Board, University of Chicago; Member Northwestern University Associates; Member Religious Committee of City of Chicago; Life Governor, Jewish General Hospital of Montreal; Patron, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts; Member Whitney Museum of American Art.

HONORARY DEGREES, DECORATIONS:

Chevalier of the Legion of Honor from France; Cavalier of the Order of Merit from Italy; Commendador of the Order of Merit from Peru; Hon. Dr. of Humanities, Southern College of Florida; Hon. Dr. of Laws, the Citadel Military College of South Carolina; Hon. Dr. of Laws, University of New Brunswick.

CLUBS:

Economic, Canadian, Marco Polo, Fifth Avenue, Sky, Lotos Clubs of New York City; Mid-Day and Standard Clubs of Chicago; Montefiore of Montreal.

BUSINESS ADDRESSES:

375 Park Avenue, New York, New York
135 South La Salle Street, Chicago, Illinois

HOMES:

Waldorf Towers, 100 E. 50th Street, New York
The Anchorage, Boyne City Road, Charlevoix, Michigan