

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY RETROSPECTIVE MARKS JOHN SLOAN CENTENNIAL YEAR

WASHINGTON, D. C. September 14, 1971. The most comprehensive exhibition ever held of the work of the American realist, John Sloan, marking the centennial of the artist's birth, opens at the National Gallery of Art on September 18. The exhibition will remain on view at the National Gallery through October 31, and then will be shown in five other museums across the country during the coming months.

Entitled John Sloan 1871-1951, the exhibition is the seventh in the National Gallery's series of retrospectives saluting American artists. The exhibition has been in planning for nearly two years under the supervision of David W. Scott, Consultant to the National Gallery's East Building now under construction and the author of a forthcoming book on John Sloan, and E. John Bullard, Curator, Special Projects at the Gallery.

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There are 100 paintings and 76 drawings and prints in the exhibition ranging from Sloan's first oil, an 1890 self-portrait, to a painting he was working on at the time of his death in the summer of 1951. These works were chosen from over forty-five public and private collections and from the John Sloan Trust at the Delaware Art Museum in Wilmington. Examples of his little-known art nouveau style of the 1890s are among his earliest work exhibited, and include the popular period games of optical illusion in illustrations, games of hidden figures-within-figures.

Among his important cityscapes of New York is City from Greenwich Village, given to the National Gallery last year by the artist's widow, Helen Farr Sloan. The picture, a major work of 1922, represents probably the artist's most significant contribution as one of the finest chroniclers of the shifting image of the city in America.

Emphasizing the number of Sloan's other characteristic achievements, the exhibition's organizers have included all seven of the paintings that were part of the historic 1908 Macbeth Gallery show of "The Eight" and the two oils included in the Armory Show of 1913. Also included are several scenes of McSorley's Bar, one of New York's more fabled landmarks; views of Gloucester and Santa Fe, where Sloan summered for

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many years; later paintings of the female nude; and a selection of etchings and drawings spanning the artist's lifetime.

The Wake of the Ferry, reproduced and issued by the United States Postal Service this summer as a postage stamp in its American Artists Series, has been lent by the Phillips Collection, Washington, D. C.

A fully illustrated, 216-page catalog will be available. It will contain 14 plates of Sloan's works in full color, a personal note by the artist's widow, Helen Farr Sloan, and two essays, "John Sloan: His Life and Paintings" by David W. Scott (illustrated with numerous unpublished photographs of Sloan and his contemporaries), and "John Sloan: His Graphics" by E. John Bullard. In addition to notes on all the works in the exhibition the publication includes a list of books illustrated by Sloan, biographical notes on Sloan's life, a chronology of his work and a selected bibliography.

A series of Sunday lectures in September and October will be given at 4:00 p.m. in the Gallery's auditorium in conjunction with the exhibition:

September 19

"The Human Comedy of John Sloan," David W. Scott

September 26

"My Reminiscences of John Sloan," Helen Farr Sloan

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October 3

"John Sloan as Graphic Artist," E. John Bullard

"The Armory Show of 1913" will be the subject of a related lecture to be given on October 10 by Milton Brown, Professor of Art History, Brooklyn College, City University of New York.

John Sloan 1871-1951 will also be seen at the Georgia Museum of Art (Athens), the De Young Memorial Museum (San Francisco), the City Art Museum of St. Louis, the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts (Columbus, Ohio) and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (Philadelphia).

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