

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

IMPORTANT TWENTIETH-CENTURY PAINTING ACQUIRED BY NATIONAL GALLERY

Washington, D. C. November 23, 1971. Family Group by William Glackens (1870-1938), the largest and most important work by this major 20th-century American artist, has been acquired by the National Gallery of Art, it was announced today by J. Carter Brown, Director of the Gallery.

The painting is the gift of the artist's son, Ira Glackens, and his wife, residents of Washington, D. C.

Family Group (72 x 84 inches) was painted in 1910 and 1911 when the Glackens family lived at 23 Fifth Avenue, just north of Washington Square in Greenwich Village in New York City. At that time Glackens, one of the leading members of the avant garde group known as The Eight, was an active participant in the artistic life of the city.

In Family Group, an intimate scene despite the large size of the canvas, Irene Dimock, sister-in-law of the artist, is seated at the left. Mrs. Glackens sits next to her on the arm of the chair. A neighbor, Grace Dwight Morgan, is seated to the right on a handsome Victorian sofa, which Glackens used

(more)

in other works. Ira Glackens, the donor of the painting, is shown at about the age of six standing in the center wearing an embroidered tunic.

Mr. Ira Glackens relates this history of the picture:

"Mrs. Morgan...returned from Paris with some fashionable clothes and among them was a stunning creation by Paul Poiret, at that time the leading French couturier. Father liked this brilliant costume and asked Mrs. Morgan to pose in it, and completely reorganized the color scheme of his painting."

Family Group was first exhibited at the famous Armory Show of 1913 and has been included in all the important exhibitions of The Eight and William Glackens since, including the Glackens Memorial Show of 1939 and the nationally circulated Glackens Retrospective of 1966-67.

The painting is the first work by William Glackens to be acquired by the National Gallery of Art, making him the fifth artist of The Eight to be represented in its collections.

Family Group is hanging in gallery 65, among a specially arranged group of works by Glackens' contemporaries, including Robert Henri, George Luks, and George Bellows.

END



Scan of photocopy of photograph. Photograph is located in the Press Release files.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TITLE: Family Group
Oil on canvas
72 x 84 inches

ARTIST: William Glackens
American, 1870-1938

PLEASE CREDIT: National Gallery of Art
Washington, D. C.
Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Ira Glackens

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