

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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HARRIMAN GIFT OF 23 PAINTINGS ACCEPTED
BY TRUSTEES OF NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

WASHINGTON, D. C. February 1, 1972. The Trustees of the National Gallery of Art accepted a gift of 22 major works of art from the W. Averell Harriman Foundation in memory of Marie N. Harriman and a portrait of Marie N. Harriman by André Derain from Mr. Harriman at their winter board meeting on Wednesday of last week, January 26, 1972, it was announced today by J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery.

Comprised of paintings by some of the most important artists of the last hundred years, the gift includes Picasso's Lady with a Fan, five major works by Cézanne, and outstanding examples by Gauguin, Matisse, Chardin, Degas, Seurat, Derain, Toulouse-Lautrec, Henri Rousseau, Courbet, and the American painter, Walt Kuhn.

Governor Harriman stated that one of the strong motivating factors in the Foundation's decision to give the paintings to the National Gallery was the Gallery's new National Lending Program, by which works of art will be made available for public exhibition at institutions across the country.

The paintings were seen previously at the National

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Gallery in 1961, in a special exhibition inaugurating an exhibition series of great private collections in the Nation. They will go on view at the Gallery as a collection when the East Building, currently under construction, is completed, which is expected to be in 1975. Meanwhile, a selection of them will be put on view at the Gallery immediately.

Lady with a Fan (1905) by Picasso was once in the collection of Gertrude Stein, one of Picasso's earliest and most vocal supporters.

Cézanne, generally considered the father of modern art, is brilliantly represented by five canvases, including two of his most impressive landscapes, the large Mont Sainte-Victoire and Au Bord de l'Eau, both dating from the period of the late 1880s.

The five Harriman Cézannes join thirteen others in the National Gallery's collection, including the early, monumental Portrait of the Artist's Father, forming one of the finest assemblages of this artist's work in the world.

Two of the Cézannes have interesting histories. La Lutte d'Amour, a composition of nudes, was once owned by Renoir; and a Still Life, from the 1890s, came from the collection of Monet at Giverny.

One of the most famous pictures in the gift is Gauguin's Words of the Devil. Perhaps an illustration of the "ancient Eve" of a letter that Gauguin wrote to Strindberg, the picture captures the sense of mystery and jungle fear of a South Sea culture in which the artist lived.

The Marie Harriman Gallery on 57th Street in New York City, which the late Mrs. Harriman established in 1930 and

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directed until 1942, showed many of the most important French pictures to come to America and succeeded in drawing collectors early to the works of Cézanne, Gauguin, van Gogh, Picasso, Matisse and Derain. In addition, she exhibited the work of contemporary Americans. Mr. and Mrs. Harriman gave their support to Walt Kuhn, a major American artist whose celebrated Seated White Clown is also in the gift to the National Gallery.

In addition to the Harriman gift, the Trustees accepted from other donors significant gifts of modern pictures, including oils, water colors, and graphics, which will be either placed in the Lending Program or exhibited in Washington.

Checklist of Harriman Foundation paintings below:

- Paul Cézanne, Au Bord de l'Eau, 1888-90, 28 3/4 x 36 1/2 in.
 " " , La Lutte d'Amour, 1875-76, 15 x 18 1/2 in.
 " " , Man with Pipe, 1890, 10 1/4 x 8 in.
 " " , Le Mont Sainte-Victoire, Environs de Gardanne, 1885-86, 26 1/2 x 36 in.
 " " , Still Life, 1895-1900, 18 1/4 x 21 3/4 in.
 Jean Baptiste Chardin, Still Life with a White Mug, 13 x 16 1/8 in., c. 1756.
 Gustave Courbet, Boats on a Beach, 1855, 25 1/2 x 36 in.
 " " , Landscape near the Banks of the Indre, 1856, 24 x 29 in.
 Edgar Degas, Girl Drying Herself, 1885, 31 7/8 x 20 1/4 in.
 André Derain, Still Life, 1913, 36 1/2 x 29 1/4 in.
 Paul Gauguin, Brittany Landscape, 1890, 29 1/2 x 37 in.
 " " , Words of the Devil, 1892, 37 x 27 1/2 in.
 Walt Kuhn, Dryad, 1935, 34 x 23 in.
 " " , Green Apples and Scoop, 1939, 30 x 40 in.
 " " , Hare and Hunting Boots, 1926, 29 x 27 in.
 " " , Seated White Clown, 1929, 40 x 30 in.
 " " , Zinnias, 1933, 25 x 30 in.
 Henri Matisse, Still Life with Pineapple, 1924, 20 x 24 in.
 Pablo Picasso, Lady with a Fan, 1905, 39 x 31 1/2 in.
 Henri Rousseau, Rendezvous in the Forest, 1889, 36 1/2 x 28 3/4 in.
 Georges Seurat, Les Grues et La Percée, 1888, 25 1/2 x 31 3/4 in.
 Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Lady with a Dog, 29 3/4 x 22 3/4 in.

END

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