

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

PRESS - TV - RADIO NOTICE OF OPENING EVENTS AT
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART FOR "IMPRESSIONIST AND
POST-IMPRESSIONIST PAINTINGS FROM THE U.S.S.R."

WASHINGTON, D.C. March 23, 1973. Three days of previews will precede the opening at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. on April 1 of "Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Paintings from the U.S.S.R.," the first exhibition of Western paintings lent to the United States by the Soviet Union.

The exhibition, which will also be on view in New York City at the Knoedler Gallery from May 3-26, is comprised of forty-one paintings lent by the Hermitage Museum in Leningrad and the Pushkin Museum in Moscow.

Negotiations for the unique loan were effected privately by American businessman and art collector Armand Hammer. Dr. Hammer is Chairman of the Board of Occidental Petroleum Corporation, Los Angeles.

The exhibition is partially supported at the Gallery by a \$105,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which is aiding in the preparation of a film to be aired April 29 on the Public Broadcasting Service. The film is being made in cooperation with the National Gallery, Corporation for Public Broadcasting and WNET in New York. The grant is also covering four special evening lectures during April and a free gallery guide prepared by the National Gallery's Education Department.

A fact sheet on the exhibition, which will remain on view at the National Gallery through April 29, is attached.

The following is a schedule of events prior to the opening. Press coverage will be limited as indicated.

March 29 7:30 p.m. President of the National Gallery and Mrs. Paul Mellon are giving an official dinner party in the Gallery, attended by Mme. Ekaterina A. Furtseva, Soviet

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March 29 (continued) Minister of Culture, Anatoliy F. Dobrynin, Soviet Ambassador and Dr. Hammer. About 75 guests are expected.

There will be a pool of one reporter. Photography permitted during cocktails. No television coverage.

9:30 p.m. The Trustees of the National Gallery are giving a reception for about 300 guests in the East Garden Court following Mr. and Mrs. Mellon's dinner.

Press will be admitted by invitation. Photography permitted. Arrangements for television coverage should be made in advance through the Gallery's Information Office.

March 30 11:30 a.m. A press conference with Mme. Furtseva, arranged by the Washington Press Club, will be held in the National Gallery Auditorium (ground floor - use Constitution Avenue entrance). Dr. Hammer, J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery, Robert J. Kingston, deputy chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities, and John Richardson, vice-president of Knoedler's, will also be available for questions.

Open to all press. Photography permitted. For television coverage, please contact the Gallery's Information Office in advance. The conference will last about 30 minutes.

12-2:00 p.m. An open preview of the exhibition for working press, in galleries 68 to 71 on the main floor at the east end of the building. Photography permitted.

6-8:00 p.m. Director and Mrs. Brown will be giving a reception for members of Congress and their staffs in the East Sculpture Hall. About 800-1000 guests are expected.

March 30 (continued)

Mme. Furtseva, Dr. Hammer and Mr. Kingston have also been invited.

Press will be admitted by invitation. Photography permitted. For television coverage please contact the Gallery's Information Office in advance.

March 31 10:00 a.m.
to 5:00 p.m.

An invitational preview for those on the Gallery's mailing list (receiving the monthly Calendar of Events and other special notices) will be given, as usual, the day before the exhibition opens. Several thousand persons are expected.

Press - tv - radio are welcome too, but should pick up invitations in advance from the Gallery's Information Office to gain access at the entrance of the exhibition.

April 1 12 noon

The exhibition opens to the public - without charge.

April 29

National premiere of television documentary to be shown on Public Broadcasting Corporation. Time to be announced.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565, area code 202, 737-4215, ext. 224.

FACT SHEET

FIRST SOVIET LOAN OF WESTERN EUROPEAN
PAINTINGS TO THE UNITED STATES

EXHIBITION TITLE: Impressionist and Post-Impressionist
Paintings from the U. S. S. R.

EXHIBITION DATES:

April 1 - 29, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C.
Extended hours: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday
12 noon - 9 p.m. Sundays

May 3 - 26, M. Knoedler & Co., New York
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday
Monday and Thursday evenings until 9 p.m.

CONTENT: For the first time, forty-one impressionist and post-impressionist paintings from the Hermitage Museum in Leningrad and the Pushkin Museum in Moscow are being allowed to travel to the U.S. The loan is comprised of seven paintings by Matisse, seven by Gauguin, six by Picasso, five by Cézanne, three by van Gogh, two each by Monet, Renoir, Rousseau and Derain, and important single works by Pissarro, Sisley, Braque, Vlaminck, and Léger.

GRANT: A grant of up to \$105,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities, under a new program of support for museum exhibitions, will partially support the exhibition costs at the National Gallery of Art and its related educational materials. The grant will also cover some of the costs of a film on the exhibition, which will be shown on educational television in April and subsequently distributed by the National Gallery's Extension Service. The film is being made in cooperation with the National Gallery and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and WNET in New York.

LOAN NEGOTIATIONS: Negotiations for the loan were effected by American businessman and art collector, Dr. Armand Hammer. Dr. Hammer is Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Occidental Petroleum Corporation, Los Angeles. He also holds controlling interest in M. Knoedler & Co., Inc., which was founded in 1846.

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PUBLICATIONS: A catalog accompanying the exhibition will contain full-color illustrations of each painting and a foreword by J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery, and art scholar John Richardson, vice-president of Knoedler. A guide to the exhibition, underwritten by the National Endowment for the Humanities grant and containing art historical information on each painting, will be available without charge at the exhibition in Washington. A selection of 20 postcards in color and a full-color poster will also be available in both cities.

LECTURES: A special series of lectures by four leading art historians and critics will be given Thursday evenings at the National Gallery of Art during April. The series is supported by the grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

- April 5 The Post-impressionist Vision of Cézanne, Gauguin, and van Gogh. Speaker: George Heard Hamilton, Director, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts.
- April 12 Matisse and the Fauves. Speaker: Clement Greenberg, Author and Art Critic, New York, New York
- April 19 The Wit in Cubism. Speaker: Robert Rosenblum, Professor of Fine Arts, New York University, New York, New York
- April 26 Russian Art Collectors and Philanthropists: the Shchukins and Morosovs of Moscow. Speaker: Sergius Yakobson, Honorary Consultant in Slavic Studies, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

National Gallery of Art, Constitution Avenue at 6th Street,
Washington, D. C. 20565. 202-737-4215

M. Knoedler & Co., Inc., 21 East 70th Street,
New York, New York 10021. 212-628-0400

National Endowment for the Humanities, 806 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506. 202-382-5721, -5722.

PRESS INQUIRIES:

Katherine Warwick, National Gallery of Art
Michael Percival, M. Knoedler & Co., Inc.
Darrel deChaby, National Endowment for the Humanities