

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

H. W. JANSON EXAMINES NINETEENTH-CENTURY SCULPTURE IN MELLON LECTURES

WASHINGTON, D. C. February 18, 1974. H. W. Janson, prominent art historian and educator, will deliver the 23rd annual Andrew W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts at the National Gallery of Art this spring. Dr. Janson is Professor of Fine Arts and Chairman of the Fine Arts Department at New York University, Washington Square and University College.

The title of Professor Janson's lecture series will be Nineteenth-Century Sculpture Reconsidered. Sculpture of this era has been largely neglected, mainly due to a negative judgment conferred upon it since the 1880s. Professor Janson intends to examine how and why this adverse opinion evolved and to rehabilitate the subject by examining the various innovative aspects of nineteenth-century sculpture--including materials and techniques, style, themes, and patronage.

The lecture series will be given on six consecutive Sundays at 4:00 p.m. from March 10 through April 14 in the National Gallery Auditorium. The series is open to the public at no charge.

In conjunction with the lecture series, an exhibition of approximately 100 examples of nineteenth-century sculpture will go on view from March 10 through May 26. Among the twenty-nine

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sculptors represented in the exhibition will be Carpeaux, Daumier, Degas, Gauguin, Géricault, and Rodin. The exhibition will include thirty-eight Daumiers from the Gallery's Rosenwald Collection and twenty-two pieces from the Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon. Many of the works from the Mellon Collection are exhibited here for the first time.

Professor Janson's associations outside of New York University are numerous. He has been very active in the College Art Association of America formerly as its president and now as chairman of its Publications Committee and of The Art Bulletin Committee. He was editor-in-chief of The Art Bulletin from 1962 until 1965.

Among his other activities are the Comité international de l'histoire de l'art, Chairmanship of the Advance Placement Committee (History of Art) for the College Entrance Examination Board, and the Renaissance Society of America. He has been responsible for the organization and funding of the Répertoire Internationale de la Littérature d'Art (RILA), to produce abstracts of current art historical literature.

A prolific writer, Professor Janson's major publications include an authoritative two-volume work on The Sculpture of Donatello and History of Art: A Survey of the Major Visual Arts from the Dawn of History to the Present Day, the most widely used text for art history students in the United States. Professor Janson has also written many articles for fine arts publications and has contributed essays to several collective volumes of art historical scholarship.

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Professor Janson has received numerous awards. The College Art Association of America conferred upon him in 1954 and in 1959 the Charles Rufus Morey Award for the year's most distinguished work of art historical scholarship by a United States or Canadian scholar. He also has twice been honored with a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Born in Russia, Professor Janson studied at the Universities of Munich and Hamburg before coming to the United States in 1935. He received his Master's Degree (1938) and his Doctorate (1942) in art history from Harvard University. From 1941 until 1949, Professor Janson served as Associate Professor at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, where he also held the position of Curator of the University's Art Collection from 1944 through 1949. He joined the staff of New York University in 1949 as Professor of Fine Arts and Chairman of the Fine Arts Department.

The Andrew W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts began in 1952 and are supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Their purpose is to "bring to the people of the United States the best contemporary thought and scholarship bearing on the subject of the fine arts."

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