

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR RELEASE  
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## NATIONAL GALLERY'S PRINT COLLECTION BROADENED BY MAJOR ACQUISITIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. The National Gallery of Art's outstanding collection of graphic arts has attained extraordinary new breadth with the addition of over 1400 prints acquired under an intensive acquisition program over the last three years.

Sixty-two of these recently-acquired prints, including exceptionally fine examples by Dürer, Bruegel, Rubens, Pissaro, Munch and Braque will be seen for the first time in the Gallery's special exhibition, Recent Acquisitions and Promised Gifts: Sculpture, Drawings, Prints, opening June 2. One of the Gallery's most recent acquisitions, a brilliant engraving of The Adoration of the Magi, by the fifteenth century Master ES will also be included. Simultaneously, the Gallery is publishing a catalog of its 1600 acquisitions of prints, drawings and sculpture made since January, 1971.

The new acquisitions, most of which were acquired through the Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund, concentrate on the late Renaissance and Baroque periods of the Italian and Netherlandish schools and round out the Gallery's strong holdings of High Renaissance, eighteenth century French, and nineteenth and twentieth century works.

Most of these print acquisitions were made with the guidance of Christopher White, the Gallery's former Curator of Prints and now Director of Studies at The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, London.

Two of the new acquisitions, etchings by Pieter Bruegel the Elder and by Rubens, are impressions of the only etchings made by these masters. The Bruegel is entitled The Rabbit Hunters; the Rubens is Saint

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Catherine of Alexandria in the Clouds. Although prints done after the designs of these masters are well represented in the Gallery's collections, these are the first engravings from the hands of the artists themselves to be acquired by the Gallery.

Other acquisitions include unusually fine early woodcut impressions from the first German edition of "The Apocalypse" published by Albrecht Dürer in 1498. They are entitled The Martyrdom of Saint John, The Seven Trumpets Given to the Angels, and Saint John and the Twenty-four Elders Before the Throne of God.

The new acquisitions also include works by modern artists. The Vampire by Edvard Munch, a partial gift from Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Epstein, is one of two recently-acquired prints by the major nineteenth century Norwegian artist. The print is a magnificent trial proof in which a lithograph has been overlaid with a woodcut and then touched in watercolor by hand. Cubist Still Life No. 2 by Georges Braque is one of the largest and most impressive of nine etchings made by Braque between 1909 and 1912. Prints by Pissaro, Picasso, Escher, and Dubuffet are also among the new acquisitions.

Seventeenth century Italian prints added to the Gallery's collection include etchings by Giovanni Benedetto Castiglione, Pietro Testa, Stefano della Bella, Salvator Rosa, and a very fine large group of prints by Simone Cantarini. Also from this period are two etchings by Federico Barocci, including an impression of the artist's most famous print, The Annunciation, which is based on a painting in the Vatican collections.

Acquisitions of seventeenth century Dutch landscapes include works by Jacob de Gheyn, Jan Both, Nicolaes Berchen, and Allaert van Everdingen.

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