

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR RELEASE
SUNDAY A.M.
JUNE 2, 1974KEY FIFTEENTH CENTURY PRINT
ACQUIRED BY NATIONAL GALLERY

WASHINGTON, D.C. One of the finest works of graphic art to come to the National Gallery of Art over the past several years was added to the Gallery's collection at the May meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Entitled The Adoration of the Magi, it is an outstanding example of engraving by the Master ES, one of the undisputed masters of fifteenth century northern engraving, who is known only by his initials.

The engraving, an impression of brilliant quality and major art historical significance, was acquired by the Trustees as a tribute to Lessing J. Rosenwald, print connoisseur and a former Gallery Trustee whose collection forms the nucleus of the Gallery's graphic arts holdings.

The engraving will go on view June 2 in a special exhibition, Recent Acquisitions and Promised Gifts: Sculpture, Drawings, Prints, along with over 150 other prints, drawings and sculpture selected from 1600 acquisitions made since 1971. A catalog of these recent acquisitions is being published simultaneously to record the extent of this acquisition program.

This impression of the ES engraving is a key to basic appreciation of the Master's art. Although bearing all the marks of the goldsmith's art, its rich tonal wiping of the ink shows a unique painterly quality long thought to have been introduced by Rembrandt in the seventeenth century.

(more)

The ES engraving and other prints were acquired by the Trustees in May on the advice of the Gallery's newly-appointed Curator of Prints and Drawings, Andrew Robison, who joined the Gallery's staff in February.

Among the other works of graphic art acquired in May were a beautiful watercolor, Landscape with Chateau, by the sixteenth century artist, Joos de Momper; an excellent impression of Rembrandt's etching, Woman Bathing her Feet in a Brook; John Singer Sargent's largest and possibly best lithograph, Study of a Young Man; and three serigraphs, Early Solar, Dedicated, and Dimensional by the contemporary artist, Julian Stanczak.

The de Momper was acquired through the Pepita Milmore Memorial Fund; the Rembrandt was a purchase through the Milmore Fund and a partial gift of Hans Weigert. The Sargent was a gift of Dr. and Mrs. George Benjamin Green of Arlington, Virginia; and the Stanczak serigraphs were a gift from the Jane Haslem Gallery, Washington, D.C.

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