

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW FOREIGN LANGUAGE TOURS

BEGIN AT NATIONAL GALLERY

WASHINGTON, D. C. July 18, 1974. In a continuing effort to accomodate all visitors with personally guided tours of the permanent collection, the National Gallery of Art has initiated this summer a new program of tours in foreign languages to complement those given by staff lecturers in English.

Tours are now available, by appointment, in Arabic, French, Dutch, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish, and Swedish. Tours in Chinese and Russian are expected in the fall.

The Gallery's Education Department, in cooperation with THIS (The Hospitality and Information Service, an affiliate of Meridian House International), began a training program early this spring with twenty-four women who are fluent in foreign languages. The guides have been trained to conduct two tours; one covering the highlights of the Gallery's European collection, and the other covering the American section. Both tours last approximately one hour although sometimes they have stretched to two hours at the urging of tourists.

The tour guides, after undergoing fourteen hours of intensive training in art history conducted by Anne-Imelda Radice of the Gallery's Education Department, are prepared to speak on more

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than sixty paintings and sculptures for the "Masterpieces" tour and thirty works for the "American Painting" tour.

Works discussed in the "Masterpieces" tour, which are selected individually by the guide from her training program, include The Alba Madonna by Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci's portrait of Ginevra de'Benci, Dürer's Madonna and Child, Velázquez's The Needlewoman, eleven paintings by Picasso and seven by Turner, and Verrocchio's bust of Lorenzo de'Medici. Among the American selections are John Singleton Copley's group portrait of The Copley Family, Gilbert Stuart's The Skater, and Mary Cassatt's The Loge, as well as numerous American naïve paintings.

A week to ten days prior notice for the desired time and date of a tour is requested. Appointments should be made by phone through Mrs. William Pierce, 6846 Glenbrook Road, Bethesda, Maryland, area code 202, 656-1952, or through the Gallery's Education Department, area code 202, 737-4215, ext. 272.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION 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.