

National Gallery of Art

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National Gallery of Art BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES

Special Exhibitions

Treasures from the Hermitage and the Russian State Museum:
One of the officially designated events between the U.S.S.R. and the United States for the U.S. Bicentennial, this unprecedented exhibition of forty art treasures from the Hermitage and the Russian State Museum will open at the National Gallery in mid-July 1975 and run into the fall. From the Hermitage for the first time will come a selection of thirty old master Western European paintings, including two by Rembrandt (Saskia as Flora and David and Uriah), two by Picasso (Friendship and Woman with a Fan), and two by Matisse (Fruit, Flowers and The Dance and Family Portrait), as well as single examples by Cranach, Velásquez, Veronese, Rubens, van Dyck, Hals, Chardin, and Fragonard, among others. In all, thirty-six artists from seven European countries, whose works span more than four centuries, are represented. Also among the loans is the Lute Player by Caravaggio, an artist whose work changed the course of Western art history but who is rarely represented in the United States. In addition, ten 19th-century works from the Russian State Museum in Leningrad will be shown--two by I. Repin and one each by Levitski, Ventstianov, C. P. Briulov, Ayvasovsky, I. I. Shishkin, Kramskoy, I. I. Levitan, and B. A. Serov.

The European Vision of America:

This exhibition, organized by the Cleveland Museum of Art, will debut at the National Gallery from December 7, 1975, through March 21, 1976. The exhibition will also

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be seen at the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Louvre. It will illustrate the development of the visual image of the Americas in European minds from the time of Columbus to the late 19th century. This image was largely the creation of Europeans who, without crossing the Atlantic, evolved an often fantastic vision of an exotic land in which all manner of strange plants and creatures mingled. These fantasies helped to form European conceptions and misconceptions of the Americas. By the time of the American Revolution, however, the European vision was more realistic and accurate. This heightened perception was mirrored in works produced from the late 18th century through the time of the American Civil War. Bringing together a wide range of European works of art and other objects, the exhibition will include paintings, drawings, and prints by such masters as Rubens, Tiepolo, Goya, Delacroix, and Degas, sculpture, tapestries, porcelains, and metalwork, as well as early maps and books.

The Eye of Thomas Jefferson:

On view from June 3 through September 6, 1976, this exhibition will focus on Jefferson and his many far-reaching visual interests, bringing together the finest possible examples of painting, sculpture, decorative arts, architecture, and landscape design that influenced Jefferson and that, through him, have influenced the Nation. A selection of original Jefferson drawings will be exhibited. The exhibition will present the esthetic and intellectual world in which Jefferson lived and moved, illustrating with works of art the attitudes and ideas that he encountered, recorded, and assimilated. Moving from the cultural and social environment of Colonial Virginia, where he spent his youth and formative years, Jefferson grew to confront the political realities of England, the source of the very environment in which he had matured. As minister to France, Jefferson moved quickly and with utter assurance into the intellectual and artistic scene of Europe when he arrived there in 1784. That scene involved lively interests in science, archeology, natural history, antiquities, paintings,

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sculpture, architecture, landscape design, and city planning. He pursued these interests not only in France, but also in the other countries he visited-- England, Germany, and Italy. When he returned to the United States in 1789, he brought his interests to bear on the artistic and cultural, as well as the political, development of his country.

Extension

Extension Service:

The National Gallery's Extension Service offers films, slide programs, and slide sets to schools and other organizations free of charge, except return postage and postal insurance. For a free catalog, write to the Extension Service, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C. 20565.

Films relating to the Bicentennial:

The American Vision--a 35-minute, award-winning film written and directed by J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery--tours the American pictures at the National Gallery. It illustrates the general development of painting from the American "primitives" to the movements of the 20th century, describes the lives of major American artists, and discusses their works within an historical context.

A Nation of Painters, a 7-minute film, shows the works of American artists during the time between the Revolution and the Civil War.

Copley, a 5-minute film, examines the paintings of America's most important old master before and after 1774, when he left this country and eventually settled in London.

Slide Programs relating to the Bicentennial:

"Survey of American Painting," a 40-minute slide program with recorded lecture, traces the development of American painting and discusses the works of major American artists.

"Painting in Georgian England," a 50-minute slide program with recorded lecture, depicts life in England

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from about 1714 to 1830 and discusses the influences upon the Colonial and Early Federal periods in America.

Seven new slide programs--on such subjects as American Folk Art, the American West, the American Wilderness, American Realism, and the National Gallery's special Bicentennial exhibition "The Eye of Thomas Jefferson"--will be offered by January 1976. Besides a recorded lecture, each program will include a cassette of music and poetry and copies of issues of the magazine Art and Man devoted to the topic of the program.

Slide sets from the Index of American Design:

Twenty-three slide sets, with notes, present examples of American crafts and folk arts from about 1700 until 1900. Sample titles are "Early American Crafts," "Pennsylvania German Folk Art," "Crafts of the Spanish Southwest," "18th- and 19th-Century Tools and Implements," and "Early American Handmade Dolls."

Music

Concerts:

Music from the Colonial period to the present day will be featured in many of the concerts given by the National Gallery Orchestra or guest artists in the National Gallery on Sunday evenings, September through June.

American Music Festival:

The 32nd and 33rd American Music Festivals will be held during the spring of 1975 and 1976. Both festivals will present works of American composers, including several world premières.

Education

Tours:

Introductory Tours, lasting about fifty minutes, will cover the Gallery's highlights, including 18th-century European and American paintings. The tours are offered

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consecutive Sundays beginning March 9, 1975, and running through April 20, 1975. His topic for the series is "European Music in the Year 1776."

Kress Professor:

The 1975-76 Samuel H. Kress Professor in Residence is Sir Francis J. B. Watson, a specialist in 18th-century art history and former Director of the Wallace Collection in London. During his year in Washington, he will continue to serve as Chairman of the International Steering Committee for the National Gallery's Bicentennial exhibition "The Eye of Thomas Jefferson."

Publications

Publications Rooms:

Catalogues for the Bicentennial exhibitions at the National Gallery, other special catalogues, posters, reproductions, post cards, and other print material will be offered in the publications rooms.

Facilities

Cafeteria:

The National Gallery has one of the best cafeterias in Washington. It is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday. During the summer, when the Gallery extends its closing time, the cafeteria remains open until 7:30 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays. It is hoped that the new cafeteria in the Gallery's new East Building will be open in the summer of 1976.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION contact the Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C. 20565, area code 202, 737-4215, ext. 224.