

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY SHOWS HOMER WATERCOLORS

WASHINGTON, D.C. September 26, 1975. An exhibition of seventeen watercolors by Winslow Homer (1836-1910), a recent bequest to the National Gallery of Art, is on view through December 14 in gallery 60A.

The watercolors were left to the Gallery by Ruth K. Henschel who, with her husband, Charles R. Henschel, collected one of the foremost private holdings of Homer watercolors.

Winslow Homer is considered the greatest of American marine and genre painters. American life is recorded in his many scenes of farms and countryside, beach and resort life, hunting and fishing, and the coast, sea and mountains.

Homer is widely considered a supreme master of the water color medium, perhaps the major talent in this field America has produced. Part of the appeal of his watercolors lies in a fresh and spontaneous interpretation of the outdoors. Other qualities are the economy of means reflected in innovative broad color washes and the use of white paper as color.

The watercolors are installed adjacent to the Gallery's permanent collection of American paintings, which include three of Homer's best-known oils. On view in gallery 65 are Right and Left, Breezing Up and Hound and Hunter, a study for which

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is among the watercolors in the Henschel bequest.

In 1883, Homer settled in Prout's Neck, Maine, his home for the next twenty-seven years. Incoming Tide: Scarborough, Maine, a watercolor painted during the first year in Maine, portrays the pounding waves and rocky coastline that the artist painted so often. Also included in the exhibition is one of Homer's monumental compositions of fishermen at sea, Hauling in the Nets.

Homer traveled frequently to the Adirondacks to paint landscape and hunting and fishing scenes, such as A Good Shot: Adirondacks and Casting, Number Two. Spending winters in Florida, Bermuda, the Bahamas and Cuba, Homer painted his most colorful and freely-worked watercolors. Salt Kettle: Bermuda, Key West: Hauling Anchor and Red Shirt: Homosassa, Florida are included in the exhibition.

Eighteen watercolors from Mr. and Mrs. Henschel's collection were shown at the Gallery in 1962.

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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