

# National Gallery of Art

Washington, D.C. 20565  
Telephone: (202) 737-4215  
Cable Address: NATGAL

---

## National Gallery of Art U.S. BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES UPDATE

### Special Exhibition

#### The Eye of Thomas Jefferson:

On view from June 5 through September 6, 1976, this major Bicentennial Gallery offering will focus on Thomas 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 also 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, sculpture, architecture, landscape design, and city planning. His pursuit of these interests will be reflected in approximately 550 loans assembled for the first time from American and European collections, including the renowned third-century B.C. sculpture known as the Venus de' Medici and major works by David, Houdon, Hubert Robert, Canaletto, Hogarth, and Canova. Four architectural models have also been built for the exhibition.

### 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's East Garden Court on

(more)

Sunday evenings, September through June. For June 6, a special program based on Jefferson's music library is being planned, and on June 20 the season will conclude with a concert featuring such Americana as Sousa marches and other patriotic pieces.

**American Music Festival:**

March 14 marks the beginning of the National Gallery's 33rd American Music Festival, a series of Sunday evening concerts devoted entirely to works of American composers. Each Sunday through May 30, at 7 p.m. in the East Garden Court, the National Gallery Orchestra, Richard Bales, Conductor, and guest artists will perform American compositions from Colonial times to the present, including world premieres and first-Washington performances of contemporary works. Mr. Bales, the Gallery's Director of Music, first organized the American Music Festival in the spring of 1944 to emphasize and encourage serious attention to the works of American composers. This year, he has extended the Festival's season to twelve weeks in honor of the Bicentennial.

Advanced Study

**Mellon Lectures:**

Peter von Blanckenhagen, a leading historian of the art of ancient Greece and Rome, will give the 1976 Andrew W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts at 4 p.m. in the Gallery's auditorium on six consecutive Sundays from March 21 through April 25. Professor von Blanckenhagen's lectures will be devoted to the classical tradition, which was "rediscovered" in the eighteenth century and became one of the intellectual and esthetic preoccupations of the society in which Thomas Jefferson was active.

**Kress Professor:**

The 1975-76 Samuel H. Kress Professor in Residence is Sir Francis J. B. Watson, a specialist in eighteenth-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."

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 catalogue, write to the Extension Service, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565.

(more)

Art and Man, the high-school humanities magazine published by Scholastic Magazines in cooperation with the National Gallery, will devote special issues to the following topics during the 1975-76 school year: American Folklore and Folk Art; Citizen Jefferson: Renaissance Man (a special preview of the National Gallery's Bicentennial exhibition "The Eye of Thomas Jefferson"); American Gothic: Pilgrims, Puritans, Mystics; The Adventurers: The American Pioneer Spirit; The Pursuit of Happiness: Leisure, Recreation, and Doing Your Own Thing; and New Forces.

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, presents a selection of the American pictures at the National Gallery. It illustrates the general development of painting from the American "primitives" to the movements of the twentieth 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 done by America's most important old master before and after 1774, when he left this country to eventually settle 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 from about 1714 to 1830 and discusses the influences upon the Colonial and Early Federal periods in America.

Slide Sets from the Index of American Design:

Slide sets, with notes, offer examples of American crafts and folk arts from about 1700 until 1900. Sample titles are "American Pottery," "Pennsylvania German Folk Art," "American Furniture," "Crafts of the Spanish Southwest," and "Early American Handmade Dolls." These programs are in the process of being revised for special Bicentennial emphasis. For further information, contact the Gallery's Extension Program Development department, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565.

Education

Tours:

Introductory Tours, lasting about fifty minutes, cover the Gallery's highlights, including eighteenth-century European and American

(more)

paintings. The tours are offered at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday and at 5 p.m. Sunday.

Tours of the Week, lasting about fifty minutes, concentrate on one type of painting or on a special exhibition. They are given at 1 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, September through June.

Painting of the Week, a fifteen-minute gallery talk on a single picture in the Gallery, is scheduled at noon and 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and at 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Sunday.

Foreign Language Tours, lasting about one hour, are available, by appointment, in Arabic, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Swedish. Appointments should be requested two weeks in advance. For more information, call The Hospitality and Information Service at (202) 232-3002, or the Gallery's Education department at (202) 737-4215, ext. 270.

Recorded Tours, one of which offers a selection of the Director's choice of paintings, are available at a nominal fee. The Director's tour is also available in French, German, and Spanish.

#### Lectures:

Illustrated lectures by visiting art historians are scheduled in the National Gallery Auditorium on Sundays at 4 p.m. These lectures are usually related to the National Gallery's collections or to special exhibitions.

#### Films:

Films on art are presented on a varying schedule.

#### Publications

##### Publications Rooms:

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

#### Cafeteria

The National Gallery has one of the most popular 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. 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 Gallery's new and enlarged cafeteria will be open in the summer of 1976.

(more)

Hours

The Gallery's regular hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 9 p.m. Sunday. During the summer, the Gallery's hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 9 p.m. Sunday.

END

February 16, 1976

---

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