

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

### HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH THE GALLERY'S 18TH-CENTURY-STYLE FIREWORKS

The National Gallery of Art's eighteenth-century fireworks spectacle on the evening of June 1st to mark the opening of the Gallery's major Bicentennial exhibition, The Eye of Thomas Jefferson, will be a special opportunity to photograph a unique Bicentennial event. Here are some tips from the Gallery's Chief Photographer, William J. Sumits, on photographing period fireworks:

"Instamatic" snapshot cameras will get good pictures. However, the use of flashbulbs should be avoided because they will light up only the foreground (actually only about the thirty feet directly in front of the viewer), minimizing the fireworks. Just rely on the illumination from the fireworks to provide enough light necessary for a good picture.

In all cases, the fastest color film should be used.

About 90% of the Gallery's fireworks display will be "ground displays" as they were in the eighteenth century. These last longer and don't move as much as the aerial fireworks. Hand-held cameras are sufficient.

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Suggested exposures are: 1/30 of a second at f 2.8 on the following films: Kodachrome 64, Ektachrome X, Kodacolor II and Polacolor. On daylight, high speed Ektachrome, 1/30 of a second at f 4 is suggested.

Of course, automatic cameras will determine their own exposure.

For aerial fireworks displays, the best results are obtained with the use of a tripod or the camera resting on some other solid object. The camera should be focussed at infinity with the shutter set on "T" (for time) and "B" (for bulb) and the shutter kept open for several bursts. Lens opening (f stop) should be set according to the film being used.

Suggested lens opening for Kodachrome 64, Ektachrome X, Kodacolor II and Polacolor is f 8, and for high speed Ektachrome, f 11.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION contact the Gallery's Information Office, 737-4215, ext. 224