

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

PRESS-TELEVISION-RADIO NOTICE OF OPENING EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART FOR THE EYE OF THOMAS JEFFERSON EXHIBITION AND THE 18TH-CENTURY-STYLE FIREWORKS SPECTACLE ON JUNE 1

The National Gallery of Art's major Bicentennial exhibition The Eye of Thomas Jefferson, evokes the aesthetic and intellectual environment in which the third President's eye and imagination developed, from colonial Virginia, to the enriching years in Paris and retirement at Monticello. With almost 600 works of art, the exhibition is the most complex ever mounted by the Gallery. It will be on view from June 5 through September 6.

The following is a schedule of events prior to the public opening at the Gallery, with press coverage permitted as indicated:

Tuesday June 1	10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Press preview for working press only. Press credentials necessary.
	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Additional time for photography and filming only.

Tuesday evening June 1	8:30 p.m.	A preview of the exhibition and an eighteenth-century fireworks spectacle on the Mall at Third Street, will be hosted by the Trustees of the National Gallery. Guests will enter the exhibition through the Gallery's Constitution Avenue Entrance at Sixth Street.
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Press coverage of the preview and fireworks must be cleared in advance through the Gallery's Information Office.

10:00 p.m.	The fireworks program will begin with a musical prelude at 10:00 p.m. Special platforms and viewing section will be available for tv and still photography. Advance notification by name and affiliation is required, and passes to work in these areas should be picked up on June 1 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the Gallery's Information Office or between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. at the fireworks site.
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May 27, 1976

The Eye of Thomas Jefferson, the National Gallery of Art's major Bicentennial exhibition, opens to the public on Saturday, June 5, and will remain on view through Monday, September 6. The exhibition evokes the visual and intellectual milieu in which Jefferson's eye and imagination developed and presents the contributions that he, in turn, made to his and the nation's aesthetic environment.

The most complex exhibition ever mounted by the Gallery, The Eye of Thomas Jefferson will include more than 550 paintings, sculpture, drawings and prints, books, and examples of decorative arts, architecture, and landscape design lent by more than 100 collections in Europe and North America.

Particular highlights never before loaned from the collections of which they are a part are the Venus de' Medici, the renowned classical sculpture (first century B.C.-first century A.D.) from the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy, and Trumbull's series of Revolutionary War paintings from the Yale University Art Gallery.

Also featured are the largest collection of Jefferson's own drawings and designs ever assembled; large-scale models of buildings that he designed; a full-scale reconstruction of the Central Hall of Barboursville, a house designed by Jefferson in 1817 and destroyed in 1884; and a Jeffersonian botanical garden.

The exhibition has been organized with the advice of an International Steering Committee chaired by Sir Francis J. B. Watson, former director of the Wallace Collection, London, and an eminent authority on the arts of the eighteenth century. The curator is W. Howard Adams of the Gallery's staff. The designers are John Bedenkapp of New York and

Elroy Quinrow of Virginia. The exhibition requires all of the Gallery's ground-floor exhibition space plus the West Garden Court, a total of approximately 25,000 square feet. It is supported in part by a grant from Exxon Corporation.

An illustrated catalogue, edited by Mr. Adams in collaboration with scholars here and abroad, will contain an introduction by Mr. Adams and illustrations and entries on all works in the exhibition. In addition, six special essays on Jefferson and the arts have been commissioned and will be published separately over the summer.

Approximately one fifth of the loans are coming from public and private collections in France, and a substantial number of works are being lent by British collections. Other important loans are being made by institutions in Italy, Sweden, The Netherlands, and Portugal, among the ~~seven~~^{eight} nations represented. Principal lenders in North America include collections in Canada, New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Connecticut, Missouri, and the District of Columbia.

Complementary activities at the Gallery include an eighteenth-century fireworks spectacle on the Mall the evening of June 1, supported by a grant from The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; a program of music such as might have been performed at Monticello in Thomas Jefferson's time on June 6 in the East Garden Court; and a special series of lectures on Thomas Jefferson's interests in painting, architecture, garden design and city planning, and the works of art that he particularly admired, to be given in the Gallery's auditorium at 4 p.m. on the four Sundays in June.