

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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"LA BELLE EPOQUE" SHOWN IN PRINTS
AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

WASHINGTON, D. C. April 28, 1977. The National Gallery of Art will put on view an exhibition of eighty-six graphics entitled Prints of Paris: The 1890s, recalling the ambience of "La Belle Epoque" in the French capital. The exhibition will be open to the public from May 1 through July 4.

Depicting the gaiety and decadence of Montmartre nightlife as well as the quiet, traditional domesticity firmly valued by many of the city's residents, the exhibition includes twenty-five prints by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, fifteen by Edouard Vuillard, ten by Pierre Bonnard, and seven by Mary Cassatt, as well as examples by Edgar Degas and James McNeill Whistler, among others. Most of the works are from the Gallery's graphics holdings. Fourteen are loans from private collections.

The exhibition, organized by Jacquelyn Sheehan of the Gallery's Department of Graphic Arts, is divided into four sections. One offers examples of some of the ways in which the print media were used during the 1890s--for instance, as advertising posters, magazine and book illustrations, decorations for theater programs, or components of limited-edition collectors' albums. The remaining three sections present scenes

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from the boisterous Montmartre theaters and cabarets, the quiet domestic life of the upper-middle class, and the vibrant milieu of the shops, outdoor cafés and other public places in and near Paris.

Prints of Paris: The 1890s is one of two graphics exhibitions that will be on view concurrently at the Gallery, opening in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Print Council of America, to be held in Washington on April 29. The other exhibition, entitled Paper in Prints, surveys the aesthetic role of paper in the graphic arts.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs, 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.