

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

PRESS - TELEVISION - RADIO NOTICE OF PREVIEW AND RECEPTION FOR PHOTO EXHIBIT
ON HANDICAPPED PERSONS AND THE ARTS

WASHINGTON, D. C. May 6, 1977. An invitational preview of Accessible Arts, a photographic exhibit showing artistic contributions by handicapped artists, both in the fine arts and the performing arts, and design solutions to problems the handicapped face in enjoying the arts, will be held at the National Gallery of Art on Thursday, May 19, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., along with a reception in the Gallery's East Garden Court.

The exhibit will be on view to the public at the Gallery on Friday, May 20, and at the Sheraton Park Hotel from the evening of May 23 through May 29. It was produced by the National Arts and Handicapped Information Service in conjunction with the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals and organized by the Delaware Art Museum. It is supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and Bristol-Myers Company. The exhibit coordinator is Washington Arts and Communications.

Consisting of fifteen panels of photographs with text, the exhibit is divided into five main categories: current architectural solutions to accessibility in public buildings; new program and communications solutions for accessibility; the availability of all the arts for the handicapped; the benefits of accessible arts to the public; and achievements of handicapped artists. The photographs have been taken by professional photographers from all over the United States, some of whom are handicapped.

The text and graphics for the exhibit have been designed according to standards for accessibility to the handicapped. The text will be available for blind and severely visually impaired people on cassette recordings and available for distribution by the Library of Congress to libraries throughout the country.

The exhibit was designed by Michel Goldberg and fabricated by Merit Studios, Inc. A catalogue based on the exhibit will be available through the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

(more)

The following is a schedule of events at the National Gallery prior to the public opening at the Sheraton Park and exhibit hours at that hotel:

Thursday, May 19	2-4 p.m.	<u>Press preview</u> for working press only. Press credentials necessary. Television* and photography permitted.
Thursday evening, May 19	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Reception. Press coverage permitted. Please contact the Gallery's Information Office in advance.
Monday evening, May 23	7 p.m.	Exhibit opens to the public at the Sheraton Park Hotel.
Tuesday, May 24, through Sunday, May 29	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Exhibit on view daily at the Sheraton Park.

*For television coverage, please contact the Gallery's Information Office in advance so that arrangements can be made for an electrician.

NOTE: The National Gallery has for many years offered a number of services for handicapped persons. Every level of the Gallery can be reached by elevator, and wheelchairs for use in the building are available at the entrances. The Education Department offers art information to groups whose members are deaf and arranges tours for the blind of objects that can be touched, as well as tours for children with learning disabilities.

END

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.