

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY'S EXTENSION SERVICE OFFERS NEW FILMS
AND PROGRAMS ON CÉZANNE, CHINA, KING TUT, FIREWORKS

WASHINGTON, D.C. December 2, 1977. New short films on Blake, Cassatt and Cézanne and new color-slide programs on the arts of ancient China, Tutankhamun's Egypt, eighteenth-century fireworks, and the National Gallery of Art are among recently produced audio-visual materials loaned free of charge through the Gallery's Extension Service to schools, colleges and civic groups throughout the nation.

"Although we recognize there is no substitute for the direct experience of the original work of art," J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery, notes in the new Extension Service catalogue, "we hope that our Extension Programs will provide a source of understanding that will make the direct experience more rewarding and enjoyable."

The new short films (4 to 8 minutes in length)--part of a growing series of evocative studies of the works of major artists in the Gallery's collections--also include Catlin, Canaletto and Dürer--The Revelations. Each has been produced with a special style to heighten the viewer's awareness of the emotions and thoughts underlying the artist's efforts.

Another new but longer film, The Eye of Thomas Jefferson, (27 minutes) based on the Gallery's major Bicentennial exhibition, depicts the artistic and intellectual milieu in which Jefferson's eye and imagination developed and shows the contributions he made to his own and the new nation's

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environment. This film was produced by award-winning filmmaker Charles Guggenheim. It is offered in English, French and Spanish versions.

In addition to very recently developed color-slide programs on Treasures of Tutankhamun and The Chinese Past: 6000 Years of Art and Culture, other new slide programs based on special exhibitions are Morris Louis: Major Themes and Variations, The European Vision of America and two programs derived from The Eye of Thomas Jefferson. Combining color slides, cassette-recorded discussions and printed texts, the programs are complete, self-contained units, the various parts of which can also be used independently. Several contain color reproductions, posters and cassettes of pertinent music, poetry or folk tales as additional enrichment material.

For use in large classrooms or auditoriums, the Gallery offers automated programs in which the slides automatically advance--Fireworks, based on the Gallery's 1976 replication of a typical eighteenth-century pyrotechnic display of the kind Jefferson would have seen during his tenure as Minister to France, and Thomas Jefferson and the Arts. A third automated program, Introduction to the National Gallery of Art, also contains a large, full-color book, National Gallery of Art, Washington, written by Director Emeritus John Walker; this book is suitable for classroom or library use.

The Extension Service distributes a total of 39 slide programs and 26 films. A complete catalogue is available at no cost from The Extension Service, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565.

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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.