

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

ADVANCE EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

EAST BUILDING OPENING
JUNE 1, 1978

Exhibitions to be on view at the opening of the National Gallery of Art's East Building on June 1, 1978 will include:

American Art at Mid-Century: The Subjects of the Artist

Piranesi: The Early Architectural Fantasies

Aspects of Twentieth-Century Art: I. Picasso and Cubism;
II. European Painting and Sculpture; III. Matisse -
Cutouts and "Jazz"

Small French Paintings from the Ailsa Mellon Bruce Collection

Master Drawings and Watercolors

(A brief description of each follows.)

In addition, two small exhibits, in the Administrative and Study Center and in the large Auditorium, will explain some of the Gallery's behind-the-scenes activities and their relation to the new building, specifically as they relate to the planned Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts and the Gallery's expanding scholarly and educational activities.

American Art at Mid-Century: The Subjects of the Artist:

A loan exhibition comprising approximately sixty-four paintings, drawings, and sculptures by seven major artists of the abstract expressionist movement, each of whom pursued, in a series of works or a concentrated creative period, some particular theme or subject: Arshile Gorky's The Plough and the Song, Willem deKooning's Woman, Robert Motherwell's Elegies to the Spanish Republic, Barnett

(more)

Newman's Stations of the Cross, Jackson Pollock's classic poured paintings of 1950, Mark Rothko's Brown and Grey series (exhibited here for the first time), and David Smith's Voltri series, sculptures created at Voltri, Italy in the summer of 1962 for the Spoleto Festival.

Piranesi: The Early Architectural Fantasies:

A loan exhibition comprising approximately 150 prints and drawings on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the death of the eighteenth-century Italian artist Giovanni Battista Piranesi. Representing for the first time the full range of the artist's early architectural fantasies as seen in several series, it will include the Prima Parte, the Carceri, and the Grotteschi, as well as original copper plates and multiple impressions.

Aspects of Twentieth-Century Art:

An installation in three sections limited to works of art owned by the Gallery or lent by major collectors who have shown a special interest in the Gallery.

- I. Picasso and Cubism: Approximately forty paintings and drawings: Picasso, Braque, Gris, Léger, Marcoussis, Feininger, Lipchitz, Gleizes, and others.
- II. European Painting and Sculpture: Approximately sixty works representing many of the dominant trends in modern art: including fauvism, futurism, expressionism, surrealism, constructivism, and other forms of abstraction. Artists represented will be Matisse, Balla, Miró, Beckmann, Lehmbruck, Brancusi, Giacometti, Arp, Mondrian, Delaunay, Puni, Pevsner, Léger, Moore and Nicolson, among others.
- III. Matisse - Cutouts and "Jazz": The five major cutouts belonging to the National Gallery of Art: Les Bêtes de la Mer... (1950); Vénus (1952) and Femme à l'Amphore et Grenades (1953), both from the blue nude series; La Nègresse (1952/53), a large composition inspired by Josephine Baker, the famous black American entertainer who captivated Parisian audiences; and Grande Décoration aux Masques (1953), a thirty-two-foot-long work inspired by the mosaic tile walls of the Alhambra. Also an edition of Matisse's famous Jazz series, resulting from the artist's first major cutout project (1943/44).

Small French Paintings from the Ailsa Mellon Bruce Collection:

A selection of approximately sixty of the smallest format impressionist and post-impressionist paintings from the collection of the late Ailsa Mellon Bruce, given to the Gallery in 1970 but not exhibited because of lack of space: including Bonnard, Boudin, Corot, Degas, Manet, Matisse, Monet, Pissarro, Renoir, Seurat, Sisley, Toulouse-Lautrec, Utrillo, and Vuillard.

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Master Drawings and Watercolors: Selections from the National Gallery
Collection and Promised Gifts:

Approximately 120 drawings in all media, either owned by the Gallery or specifically promised to it, ranging from the twelfth through the twentieth centuries: Leonardo, Raphael, Michelangelo, Dürer, Breugel, Rembrandt, Watteau, Boucher, Fragonard, Blake, Degas, van Gogh, Kirchner, Marin, and Homer, among others.

Note to Editors:

As reported by the press, the Gallery is currently working on an exhibition to be entitled The Splendor of Dresden: 500 Years of Art Collecting, an exhibition from the German Democratic Republic. An official announcement will be made at a later date when all arrangements for this exhibition are final. This exhibition is being organized jointly by the National Gallery of Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. The objects in this exhibition are from the collections of the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden.

In addition, works of art commissioned by the Gallery's Collectors' Committee in relation to the building, together with special loans for the purpose, will be announced nearer the opening.

END

January 19, 1978

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director, or Pamela Jenkinson, Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565, area code 202, 737-4215, ext. 224.