

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

ADVANCE EXHIBITION SCHEDULE (Projected titles and dates)

Edvard Munch: Symbols and Images, November 11, 1978 through February 19, 1979. Approximately 200 paintings, watercolors, color woodcuts, etchings and drawings by the major nineteenth-and twentieth-century Norwegian artist Edvard Munch (1863-1944) will be on view in the most comprehensive Munch exhibition ever to be held in the United States. Very few of the artist's paintings exist in American collections, and over ninety percent of Munch's work remains in Norway. Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Harald and Crown Princess Sonja have consented to be Honorary Patrons of the exhibition, which will be held in the Gallery's new special exhibition galleries. This exhibition is being organized by the National Gallery with the collaboration of the major Norwegian museums where most of Munch's art resides. Lenders to the exhibition will include the Munch Museum, Oslo; the National Gallery, Oslo; the Billedgalleri and Rasmus Meyers Samlinger in Bergen, and major private collections around the world. Munch's major themes, including love, despair, social progress, sickness and death, will be represented in about forty paintings. In addition there will be rare major impressions of his most famous prints, watercolors never before shown in the United States, and a selection of over twenty self-portraits. The exhibition is supported by a grant from Mobil Oil Corporation and a Federal indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

Drawings by Fragonard in North American Collections and Hubert Robert: Drawings and Watercolors, presented concurrently November 19, 1978 through January 21, 1979. Jean-Honoré Fragonard (1732-1806) and Hubert Robert (1733-1808) were among the last of the distinguished eighteenth-century French masters. Both exhibitions will serve as firsts-- there has never been one in America dedicated to Fragonard, nor one devoted to Robert's drawings. Approximately seventy-five drawings by Fragonard, the leading rococo artist, and sixty-four drawings and watercolors by Robert, one of the foremost landscape painters of his day, all lent from public and private collections, will be on view. Together the exhibitions will study counter-aesthetics in later French eighteenth-century art--Robert's work representing the Rococo conventions being supplanted by a style more in harmony with neo-classicism. The Fragonard exhibition is being organized by Eunice Williams, Assistant Curator of Drawings at the Fogg Art Museum. The Robert exhibition is being organized by Victor Carlson, Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

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Berenson and the Connoisseurship of Italian Painting, January 21 through May 13, 1979. This exhibition, the first of its kind, illustrates the history and methods of connoisseurship, as it relates to early Italian painting, focusing on Bernard Berenson (1865-1959), who for more than half a century was the foremost authority in the field. A colorful, even controversial figure, Berenson is also remarkable for the role he played in the history of taste and collecting. He stimulated and guided the keen interest American collectors took in Italian art. His expertise lies behind the Italian paintings in the National Gallery of Art, of which some twenty will be included in the exhibition. They will be complemented by more than 100 photographs, letters, and books that illuminate Berenson's achievement.

Grandma Moses: Anna Mary Robertson Moses (1860-1961), February 11 through April 1, 1979. Approximately 42 paintings from public and private collections will be on view in a survey exhibition of the work of Grandma Moses. The exhibition is the second in a series devoted to the American folk art tradition. The works on view date from 1939 to one of her last paintings of 1961. Starting to paint at the age of 76 after her husband died, Grandma Moses (Anna Mary Robertson Moses) continued the American naive painting tradition in the twentieth century, portraying scenes of country life and holiday celebrations in her native upstate New York with joy and warmth.

Prints and Related Drawings by the Carracci Family, March 18 through May 20, 1979. Approximately 160 prints, drawings and book illustrations, as well as original copper and silver plates, will be on view in the first major exhibition in the United States devoted to the prints and drawings of the Carracci family--the brothers Agostino (1557-1602) and Annibale (1560-1609), and their cousin Ludovico (1555-1619). The Carracci family work helped to form the basis of the Baroque style--the return to nature and to the classical Renaissance style. Among the loans will be many from major collections in Europe, including the Albertina, the Uffizi, and the Louvre. Ten drawings will be lent from Windsor Castle. There will also be a supplementary exhibition of about 20 to 40 prints of the 16th- and 17th-century artists who influenced the Carracci family, contemporary artists, and artists whom they later influenced.

The Art of Oceania, June 10 through October 14, 1979. Approximately 450 objects will be on view in this comprehensive exhibition from all three geographical and cultural sections of Oceania: Melanesia, which includes New Guinea, in the west; Polynesia, which includes New Zealand, in the east and south; and Micronesia, in the north. Among the objects will be sculptured figures, masks, architectural elements, weapons, personal ornaments, ritual carvings, and domestic items. The lenders will be public and private collections in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. The exhibition is the fourth in a series presented by the National Gallery of exo-Eurasian art (the first African Sculpture in 1970, the second The Far North in 1973, and African Art in Motion in 1974).

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CONTINUING EXHIBITIONS

American Art at Mid-Century: The Subjects of the Artist, through January 14, 1979. Comprised of sixty-one paintings, drawings, and sculptures, the exhibition features the work of seven major American artists of the abstract expressionist movement, illustrating a particular theme or subject pursued by each in a concentrated creative period or in a series of works over a longer span of time.

American Naïve Art: Selections from the Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch Gift and Loans, August 26, 1978 through February 4, 1979. Approximately fifty paintings from the renowned collection of Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch given to the National Gallery over a period of years, plus some from their own house, will be on view as the first in a series of several exhibitions devoted to the American folk art tradition. Dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the paintings, many by unknown artists, include portraits, landscapes, still lifes, marine paintings, genre scenes, and Biblical and historical scenes.

Small French Paintings from the Bequest of Ailsa Mellon Bruce, through April 1, 1979. The fifty-nine impressionist and post-impressionist paintings that form this exhibition have been selected on the basis of their small and intimate scale from the more than 100 French paintings bequeathed to the National Gallery of Art in 1970 by the late Ailsa Mellon Bruce, daughter of the Gallery's founder Andrew W. Mellon.

Aspects of Twentieth-Century Art, continuing. This installation of European art of the earlier twentieth century from the Gallery's collection includes works by Matisse, Picasso, Braque, Giacometti, Moore, and others. A reinstallation will add a selection of paintings and sculptures by Modigliani and others.

END

October 3, 1978

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