

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RENOWNED WRITER ON IMPRESSIONISM AND POST-IMPRESSIONISM

GIVES 1979 MELLON LECTURES

WASHINGTON, D. C. April 26, 1979. The National Gallery of Art's Andrew W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts are being given this year by John Rewald, the renowned writer on French impressionism and post-impressionism.

His subject, "Cézanne and America," focusses on the emergence of that artist's reputation in this country. The lectures are being held in the East Building Auditorium on Sundays at 4 p.m. through May 27. They are open to the public at no charge.

Among the first American collectors to recognize Cézanne's genius were Charles A. Loeser of Florence (whose collection of Cézannes was donated to the National Gallery), Eugene and Agnes Meyer of New York (whose Cézannes were also bequeathed to the Gallery), Mr. and Mrs. Henry O. Havemeyer of New York, and Albert C. Barnes of Philadelphia. Prominent figures in the early development of Cézanne's reputation were Gertrude Stein and Mary Cassatt.

Mr. Rewald has been professor of art history at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York since 1971 and has been associated with the Museum of Modern Art, New York, since 1943.

He is the author of numerous books and publications, including History

(more)

of Impressionism (4th edition revised 1973) and Post-Impressionism--
Van Gogh to Gauguin (3rd edition 1978).

He was also the author of the fully illustrated catalogue for the exhibition of nineteenth- and twentieth-century French paintings, water-colors, and drawings from the collections of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon and Ailsa Mellon Bruce, the highlight of the Gallery's twenty-fifth anniversary, in 1966. In addition, he wrote the introduction to the catalogue for the Gallery's 1967 exhibition of the celebrated collection of European paintings and drawings belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Leigh Block of Chicago.

The Andrew W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts began in 1952 and are supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Their purpose is to "bring to the people of the United States the best contemporary thought and scholarship bearing on the subject of the fine arts."

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