

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

** PRESS PREVIEW:
THURSDAY, May 10, 1979
10 A.M. - 1 P.M. All press
and media
1 - 3 P.M. Additional time
for filming and photography

LEONARDO MADONNA, OTHER ITALIAN MASTERPIECES FROM U.S.S.R.

HAVE U.S. PREMIERE AT NATIONAL GALLERY MAY 13

WASHINGTON, D. C. May 4, 1979. Leonardo da Vinci's Madonna and Child and ten other major Italian Renaissance paintings from the U.S.S.R. will have their U.S. premiere at the National Gallery of Art May 13.

The exhibition, entitled From Leonardo to Titian: Italian Renaissance Paintings from the Hermitage, is the first Soviet loan of Italian old master pictures painted before the late sixteenth century to the National Gallery. The other exhibitions were held in 1973 and 1975 and were comprised primarily of works from the late sixteenth to the early twentieth centuries.

The exhibition, arranged by Dr. Armand Hammer, has been made possible by the Armand Hammer Foundation. The selection of paintings was made in consultation with J. Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery of Art, Kenneth Donahue, director emeritus of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and Lawrence Rubin, director

(more)

of M. Knoedler & Co., Inc., with the assistance of David A. Brown, curator of early Italian paintings at the National Gallery.

After remaining at the Gallery through June 24, the exhibition will travel to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, where it will be on view July 3 through August 12, and M. Knoedler & Co., Inc. in New York, to be presented there August 21 through September 30.

Madonna and Child, also known as the Benois Madonna, is the second painting by Leonardo (1452-1519) ever to be lent to the United States. His Mona Lisa, on loan from the Louvre, was shown at the National Gallery and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1963. His portrait of Ginevra de' Benci, in the National Gallery's permanent collection, is the only one of his paintings in a collection outside Europe.

In the current exhibition, the ten major works from the Hermitage collection by other Renaissance masters, all of whom were contemporaries or followers of Leonardo, will set a context in which to see Leonardo's and their own achievements. Included will be Annunciation by Cima da Conegliano (1460-1517), Holy Family by Raphael (1483-1520), Madonna and Child with Sts. Elizabeth and Catherine and the Young St. John by Andrea del Sarto (1486-1530) and St. Mary Magdalen in Penitence by Titian (c. 1488-1576).

(NOTE: A complete checklist is attached.)

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated

(more)

catalogue with introduction and entries on each work by Everett Fahy, director of the Frick Collection in New York and an eminent authority on early Italian paintings. Also included will be a Preface by National Gallery director J. Carter Brown and Los Angeles County Museum director emeritus Kenneth Donahue, and an acknowledgment by M. Knoedler & Co., Inc. director Lawrence Rubin.

END

**Mr. Petr N. Demichev, Minister of Culture of the U.S.S.R., Dr. Armand Hammer, and National Gallery director J. Carter Brown will attend the press preview between 11 A.M. and noon.

Film crews and photographers should contact the Information Office (737-4215, ext. 224) in advance.

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

CHECKLIST OF ITALIAN RENAISSANCE PAINTINGS FROM THE HERMITAGE
ON LOAN TO THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
MUSEUM OF ART AND M. KNOEDLER & CO., INC.

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)

Madonna and Child ("The Benois Madonna")

Tempera and oil on wood, transferred to canvas; 49.5 x 31.5 cm.

Correggio (c. 1489-1534)

Portrait of Ginevra Rangone

Oil on canvas; 103 x 87 cm.

Francesco Melzi (1493-1570)

Flora

Tempera and oil on wood, transferred to canvas; 76 x 63 cm.

Andrea del Sarto (1486-1530)

Madonna and Child with Sts. Elizabeth and Catherine
and the Young St. John

Tempera and oil on wood, transferred to canvas; 102 x 80 cm.

Cima da Conegliano (1460-1517)

Annunciation

Tempera and oil on wood, transferred to canvas; 142 x 112.5 cm.

Primaticcio (1504-1570)

Madonna and Child with Sts. Zacharias, Elizabeth, and
John the Baptist

Oil on slate; 43.5 x 31 cm.

Palma Vecchio (c. 1480-1528)

Portrait of a Man Holding a Glove

Oil on canvas; 93.5 x 72 cm.

Titian (c. 1488-1576)

St. Mary Magdalen in Penitence

Oil on canvas; 119 x 97 cm.

Pontormo (1494-1557)

Holy Family with the Young St. John

Tempera and oil on wood, transferred to canvas; 120 x 98.5 cm.

Lorenzo Lotto (1480-1556)

Portrait of a Married Couple

Oil on canvas; 96 x 116 cm.

Raphael (1483-1520)

Holy Family

Tempera and oil on wood, transferred to canvas; 72.5 x 56 cm.