

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW STUDY CENTER DEFINED, MILLON APPOINTED PROFESSOR-IN-CHARGE

WASHINGTON, D. C. May 7, 1979. The formation of the National Gallery of Art's Center for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts was outlined today by J. Carter Brown, the Gallery's director at a press conference in the Gallery's East Building Library.

At the same time Mr. Brown announced the appointment of Henry Armand Millon, distinguished scholar and art historian, as the first head of the Center. The official title for the Study Center head will be Professor-in-charge. Mr. Brown and Professor Millon detailed the concept and scope of the Center and gave a tour of its facilities in the Administrative and Study Center segment of the Gallery's East Building. (See attached release on Professor Millon.)

The need for the Center has been under active study for more than ten years. Plans call for the first group of resident scholars to come to the Center a year from this fall, in October 1980.

The concept of the Center has been approved by six congressional committees beginning with committee approval of the Gallery's construction of the East Building by the 90th Congress on July 5, 1968. The Study Center was also referred to by President Carter in his address at the opening of the East Building last June.

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Last fall, an ad hoc advisory committee chaired by the Gallery's Kress Professor-in-residence, George Heard Hamilton, was assembled by the Gallery to review qualifications of various leading scholars as head of the Center and to make general recommendations regarding the Center's program.

This program will consist principally of visiting U.S. and Foreign scholars ranging from those at very advanced levels to doctoral candidates pursuing independent and Gallery-related research and writing projects. The research facilities offered the visiting scholars, in addition to the Gallery's art collections, will include a major art reference library, an extensive photographic archive, a computerized bibliography, offices and carrels, and seminar rooms.

The Center will be funded primarily by privately donated funds. Some areas, however, where the Center shares the Gallery's overall services and functions will be supported by the Gallery's public funds. These areas include overlaps with respect to the library, photographic archives, computer services, office space and support staff.

Senior scholars will be funded during an absence from salaried teaching, permitting concentration on research and writing. Younger professionals at the post-doctoral level will be given an opportunity to further their scholarly formation.

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Donated funds will be sought to cover stipends of the Professor-in-charge and five to eight Resident Scholars in addition to three to five shorter term Visiting Scholars per year and ten pre-doctoral Fellows.

The Center will have an international advisory board of nine to twelve distinguished scholars, from whom a rotating selection committee will be drawn each year to advise on the choice of resident and visiting scholars the following year.

A renowned professor, the Kress Professor-in-residence, has been appointed annually since 1965. Pre-doctoral candidates have been supported since 1959 from funds provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Kress Foundation, the will of Chester Dale and, most recently, the Robert H. and Clarise R. Smith Foundation. In addition, the Gallery has invited each year a distinguished scholar to give the Andrew W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts over a period of six to eight weeks.

The Gallery's library contains at present more than 75,000 volumes and has a goal of 300,000 within twenty years. Library acquisitions are made with both donated and federal funds.

The photographic archive, a research file documenting works of art and architecture, has reached a present level of almost one million items and has a goal of about three million in ten years. These acquisitions have been supported by gifts, notably the Richter Archive from Solomon R. Guggenheim in 1942, and since 1970, by over \$803,000 from the Kress Foundation.

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The Extension programs and services will benefit from the research conducted at the Center, offering educational materials for use in schools, colleges and other organizations and institutions as requested. These programs reach about 5,000,000 users a year throughout the fifty states.

An international art historical data bank will become an integral part of program support facilities of the Center. Included in it will be computerized information storage and retrieval for a library catalog system (already implemented and operating), the photographic archives inventory, and the Gallery registrar's inventory, location and record system (partly implemented).

Members will also be able to take advantage of such rich collections and facilities in the Washington area as the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, the Center for Hellenic Studies, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collections, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the scientific libraries at the Bureau of Standards and the National Institutes of Health and others. In addition, members will be adjacent to other scholarly centers and their members, including the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Brookings Institution and the area's seven universities.

Speaking of the scope of the Center, Mr. Brown said: "The intent of the Center is to provide optimum conditions for scholarly research and have as its goal the establishment of a superb research

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environment for art historical and related subjects that will be unique in the U.S. and the peer of comparable institutions abroad. The Center will thus add a major new scholarly resource to the nation's capital."

Stressing one aspect of the important relationship of the Center to the public, Professor Millon said: "An important part of the Center's goal will be the extension of its interest to a wider professional public in the Washington area through a program of public lectures and small colloquia."

Selection of the Professor-in-charge of the Center was made with the advice of an ad hoc panel, chaired by the National Gallery's 1978-79 Professor-in-residence, George Heard Hamilton, director emeritus of the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts. In addition to Professor Hamilton, the panel consisted of: Jean Sutherland Boggs, former professor of art history at Harvard and former director of the National Gallery of Canada, recently appointed director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art; Marvin J. Eisenberg, chairman of the department of art history at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Irving Lavin, director of the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton; William C. Loerke, director of the Center for Byzantine Studies, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collections, Washington; Professor Millon; and J. Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery of Art. All panel members were potential candidates.

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