

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FILM MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF GALLERY'S EAST BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D. C. May 29, 1979. To mark the first anniversary of the National Gallery of Art's opening of the East Building on June 1, 1978, the Gallery will offer the public premiere of A Place To Be: The Construction of the East Building of the National Gallery of Art, 1968-1978, a film tracing the creation of the structure and works of art created for it from idea to completion. The film, an hour-long documentary to be aired over PBS on Sunday, June 3, at 8:00 p.m. (check local listings), will be shown to the public at 2:00 and 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 2, in the East Building auditorium.

A Place To Be was produced by Guggenheim Productions, Inc., for WETA, Washington, D. C. The film was made possible by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and Champion International Corporation, as well as Constance Mellon and the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation. Live footage documents the participation of the late Alexander Calder, Henry Moore, Joan Miró, Jean Dubuffet, Robert Motherwell, James Rosati, as well as the architects, builders, and Paul Matisse, who engineered and fabricated the Calder mobile.

The building, a gift to the nation of Paul Mellon, his sister the late Ailsa Mellon Bruce, and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, was

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designed by I.M. Pei & Partners, New York. It has received more than 3,500,000 visitors since opening day. This number, combined with the visitors to the West Building, has brought the total attendance for both buildings to more than 6,700,000 for the twelve month period June 1 to June 1.

During that time, eleven exhibitions have been mounted in East Building galleries, including such major international loan exhibitions as The Splendor of Dresden (June 1 to September 4, 1978) and Edvard Munch: Symbols and Images (November 11, 1978 to March 4, 1979).

Currently being installed to go on view July 1 is The Art of the Pacific Islands, which will offer more than 400 of the finest extant works of art from Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia and New Guinea.

The East Building's exhibition spaces, which opened last June, are only one part of the building program. The Concourse, which houses the Café/Buffer and a publications sales area and links the East and West Buildings in an all-weather route underground, opened in 1976. The Administrative and Study Center, with offices for Gallery staff, a library, photo archives, and facilities for the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, will become fully operational within the coming year.

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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.