

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:

THURSDAY A.M.  
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MAJOR AMERICAN DRAWINGS COLLECTION

GIVEN TO NATIONAL GALLERY

WASHINGTON, D. C. September 25, 1979. The National Gallery of Art today announced the acquisition, by donation and purchase, of a major collection of 166 American drawings, formed over the course of five decades by John Davis Hatch, noted collector and scholar of American art.

One hundred forty-two drawings have been given to the Gallery by Mr. and Mrs. Hatch. Twenty-four are being purchased over the next five years through the Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund.

The drawings are available for viewing by appointment in the Gallery's Print Room Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 to 4 p.m.

A selection of the drawings will be on view in the Gallery's forthcoming major exhibition American Light, on view February 10 through June 15, 1980.

The Hatch collection surveys American draftsmanship from the colonial period to World War I and thus vastly expands

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the representation of American drawings in the National Gallery. It also gives a comprehensive context for the Gallery's already strong group of watercolors by Winslow Homer and John Marin.

The Hatch collection is particularly rich in rare works of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, including three drawings each by John Singleton Copley and Benjamin West, chalk studies by John Vanderlyn, a favorite artist of Mr. Hatch, and a portrait of Dr. John Warren by Rembrandt Peale.

In addition to portraits and genre drawings by mid-nineteenth-century artists, landscapes are particularly well represented, including three each by Thomas Cole and Jasper Francis Cropsey, as well as examples by John William Casilear, John Frederick Kensett and Frederic Edwin Church.

A group of drawings by Winslow Homer includes the impressionist watercolor Four Boys on a Beach and the artist's pencil copy of his painting Breezing Up, which is in the National Gallery's collection.

Late nineteenth- and twentieth-century artists are represented with drawings by J. A. M. Whistler (a portrait of Charles E. Freer, founder of the Freer Gallery), Charles Dana Gibson, John Sloan, Arthur B. Davies, George Luks, Jerome Myers, George Bellows, and Marsden Hartley.

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Mr. Hatch of Lenox, Massachusetts, was director of the Seattle Art Museum (1929-1931), the assistant director of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (1932-1935), and director of the Norfolk Museum (1950-1960). Since the 1930s, his avid collecting of American drawings and his sponsorship of numerous exhibitions and publications has encouraged appreciation of American art both here and abroad. In 1976-1977, 100 American Drawings, an exhibition selected from his collection, toured Britian and France. He has also arranged other traveling exhibitions on American drawings and on Thomas Cole. He was a founder of the American Art Depository, the American Drawing Annual, and the Master Drawings Association.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs 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. 511.