

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

FOURTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 511

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAX ERNST SCULPTURE ON VIEW AS GALLERY'S COLLECTORS COMMITTEE MEETS

WASHINGTON, D. C. November 12, 1980. Capricorn, a monumental bronze sculpture by German-American artist Max Ernst, will go on view for the first time at the National Gallery of Art Wednesday, November 12, in the central court of the East Building. Capricorn (1948/1975) is the most recent gift of the Gallery's Collectors Committee, which during this past year has also given David Smith's sculpture Sentinel I (1956), Kenneth Noland's painting Another Time (1973) and Frank Stella's painting-relief Chyrow II (1972).

The Committee, formed in 1975 under the chairmanship of Ruth Carter Johnson, now a Gallery Trustee, is holding its sixth annual meeting at the Gallery this week. In addition to reviewing recommendations for further acquisitions, the Committee members will attend festivities in honor of The Search for Alexander, the international loan exhibition which opens November 16.

Capricorn, produced in concrete in 1948 and cast in bronze beginning in 1964, is considered Ernst's greatest three-dimensional work. Its three totemic figures-- a seated male with a bull's head, a seated female in mermaid form and a small animal with a fish-like body--combine allusions to the zodiac and the persistent images of ancient cultures, as well as Ernst's private surrealist mythology. The figures' regal posture contrasts sharply with their organic nature and strange, hybrid appearance.

Smith's Sentinel I, Noland's Another Time and Stella's Chyrow II are installed on the upper level of the East Building.

END

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs 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. 511.