

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

## ADVANCE EXHIBITION SCHEDULE (In Chronological Order)

March 22 through July 19, 1981

Contemporary American Prints and Drawings. Approximately 100 examples of American graphics from the creative period of 1940 to 1980 will go on view on the East Building's upper level March 22. The exhibition includes works on paper by Arshile Gorky, Willem de Kooning, Jasper Johns, and Robert Rauschenberg, as well as Josef Albers, Mark Tobey, Barnett Newman, Ben Shahn, Andrew Wyeth, Helen Frankenthaler, Robert Motherwell, Sam Francis, Andy Warhol, Claes Oldenberg, Jim Dine, and Frank Stella. The works in this exhibition are drawn entirely from the Gallery's own collection. Thus, the exhibition surveys the major schools and movements during this crucial period when American art achieved maturity and worldwide leadership at the same time that this selection celebrates the growth of the Gallery's contemporary graphics collection especially through gifts by the Woodward Foundation, Lessing Rosenwald, Dr. and Mrs. Maclyn Wade, and many other generous donors.

April 26 through August 2, 1981

Kandinsky: The Improvisations. Approximately 30 paintings, drawings, watercolors and prints from European and American collections comprise this exhibition, the first ever devoted to the Improvisations, one of the most highly regarded series in the oeuvre of modern European master Wassily Kandinsky. Painted between 1909 and 1914, the Improvisations have long been thought to embody the first formal and thematic abstraction in modern art. More recent studies, including art historical and technical research begun by E.A. Carmean, Jr., curator of twentieth-century art, in 1978 when Improvisation 31 (Sea Battle) entered the Gallery's collection, question that assessment. The results of this work, joined with new discoveries, have given rise to this exhibition.

May 17 through July 5, 1981

The Drawings of Andrea Palladio. To commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of the sixteenth-century Italian master architect Andrea Palladio, this exhibition will offer 130 of his finest drawings, including designs for domestic and religious projects, reconstructions of antique bath buildings, and preparatory drawings for his Quattro Libri (Four Books of Architecture), which have influenced architectural style since the time of their publication. Douglas Lewis,

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curator of sculpture at the Gallery, has selected the examples from European and North American collections, among them the Royal Institute of British Architects in London and the Museo Civico in Vicenza. Organized by the International Exhibitions Foundation and supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and Fiat U.S.A., Inc., the exhibition will travel to the Art Institute of Chicago; the Ackland Art Museum, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; the Philbrook Art Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma; the San Antonio Art Museum; the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and the Brooks Memorial Art Gallery, Memphis, Tennessee.

June 28, 1981 through January 31, 1982

Rodin Rediscovered. With more than 350 examples of sculpture, drawings and photographs by Auguste Rodin, this exhibition, the largest ever devoted to this great French sculptor, fundamentally reevaluates his entire oeuvre. On view for the first time will be 50 photographs, 50 drawings and 40 sculptures previously unknown to the public, as well as a new casting of the monumental Gates of Hell, which will be shown with many of the separate sculptural elements it generated. Also included are recreations of two French salons from the beginning (1875) and end (1917) of Rodin's career to show the context and evolution of his work. Organized by a team of Rodin scholars headed by Dr. Monique Laurent, Director of the Musée Rodin in Paris, and Albert Elsen, Haas Professor of Art History at Stanford University, the exhibition is accompanied by a major scholarly catalogue re-examining various aspects of Rodin's career and production. The exhibition has been made possible by generous support from IBM.

August 2 through September 13, 1981

French Master Drawings from the Rouen Museum. A selection of 125 drawings by French masters of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries will be on view from the Musée des Beaux-Arts, Rouen, France. The museum is known for its strong collection of French paintings and drawings. Among the 17th-century artists represented will be Jacques Callot, Nicholas Poussin, Charles LeBrun, Jean Jouvenet and Jacques Bellange. Draftsmanship in the 18th century will be shown in works by Antoine Watteau, Jean-Honoré Fragonard, Jean-Baptiste Greuze, Gabriel de St. Aubin, Hubert Robert, Pierre-Paul Prud'hon, and Jacques Louis David. Nineteenth-century artists will include Théodore Géricault, Eugène Delacroix, and Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres. Pierre Rosenberg, Curator in the Département des Peintures, Musée du Louvre, and Francois Bergot, Curator of the Musée des Beaux-Arts, Rouen, selected the drawings for the exhibition and wrote the catalogue accompanying the exhibition. Organized by the International Exhibitions Foundation, Washington, D.C., the exhibition will travel to the J. Paul Getty Museum, Malibu, California and the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

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August 30, 1981 through January 17, 1982

The Four Moments of the Sun: Kongo Art of Two Worlds. Art representing the linkage between the natural and spiritual worlds of the Central African civilization of Kongo forms the focus of this exhibition, the first devoted to this topic. Selected by Professor Robert F. Thompson of Yale University and by Frère Joseph Cornet of Kinshasa, Zaire, the exhibition will present approximately 75 examples of Kongo funerary art, including imposing figures of shaped crimson cloth and smaller reliquary-mannikins, hollow terracotta cylinders incised with symbolic designs, and sculpture in stone and wood. In addition to describing the significance of these objects in their primary context, the exhibition will also suggest the extension and transformation of these forms and symbols in the western hemisphere.

October 4, 1981 through January 31, 1982

An American Perspective: Nineteenth-Century Art from the Collection of Jo Ann and Julian Ganz, Jr. Approximately 98 paintings, drawings, watercolors, pastels and neoclassical sculptures will be on view from this Los Angeles collection, considered the finest private holding in this country of 19th-century American art. The exhibition is part of a continuing National Gallery series devoted to significant aspects or figures of earlier American art. The Ganz collection ranges from the still lifes of Raphaele Peale, William Harnett, Severin Rosen and John F. Peto and from the landscapes of Thomas Cole, Sanford Gifford, Frederic Church, Albert Bierstadt and John F. Kensett to the genre paintings of Winslow Homer, Thomas Sully, John Singleton Copley, John Singer Sargent, J.G. Brown and Eastman Johnson. The exhibition has been organized by John Wilmerding, curator of American art and senior curator at the National Gallery. The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with essays by Mr. Wilmerding (on still lifes), Linda Ayres, assistant curator of American art (on figure painting) and Earl A. Powell, III, director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (on landscapes). The exhibition will travel to the Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

#### CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

Picasso: The Saltimbanques, closing March 15, 1981

The Search for Alexander, closing April 5, 1981

Hans Baldung Grien: Prints and Drawings, closing April 5, 1981

END

March 2, 1981

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION 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