

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

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FRENCH MASTER DRAWINGS EXHIBITION OPENS AUGUST 2

WASHINGTON, D. C. July 22, 1981. French Master Drawings from the Rouen Museum, an exhibition from the important but little-known collections of the Musée des Beaux Arts in the Norman city of Rouen, will open in the National Gallery of Art's West Building August 2. The 110 watercolors and drawings in ink, graphite, charcoal, chalks of various colors, and gouache survey French draftsmanship from the end of the 16th through the mid-19th century, one of the richest eras in French art. The exhibition will remain on view through September 13, and then will travel to three other U.S. cities.

The exhibition illustrates the major styles developed within a 250-year span, offering characteristic examples by such masters as Jacques Bellange, Simon Vouet, Antoine Watteau, Hubert Robert, Jacques-Louis David and Eugène Delacroix. It also demonstrates the range of artistic activity in France by presenting the works of many draftsmen less familiar to the public.

Key drawings include three black chalk figure studies by Vouet, three study sheets in various chalks by Watteau, three landscapes in red chalk by Robert, and three works, including a wash and ink study for The Raft of the Medusa, by Théodore Géricault, a native of Rouen. The exhibition further stresses connections between several artists and the city by including several examples of the work of native Rouen artists Jean Jouvenet and Jean Restout, as well as views of the city by Charles-Nicolas Cochin and Paul Huet and a study by Delacroix of a Veronese painting that he saw on one of his visits to the museum, which was founded in 1809.

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Drawings by artists better known for their work in other media include a harbor scene in pen and ink on vellum by the sculptor Pierre Puget and a landscape in brown wash by the printmaker Jacques Callot.

Pierre Rosenberg, Curator of Painting at the Louvre, and François Bergot, Curator of the Rouen Museums, selected the works and wrote the catalogue accompanying the exhibition. Publication of the fully illustrated catalogue is supported in part by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Organized by the International Exhibitions Foundation, the exhibition is supported by a Federal indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. His Excellency, François de Laboulaye, Ambassador of France to the United States, is honorary patron of the exhibition.

After closing at the Gallery on September 13, the exhibition will travel to the National Academy of Design, New York (October 1 - November 15, 1981), The Minneapolis Institute of Arts (December 1, 1981 - January 17, 1982), and the J. Paul Getty Museum, Malibu, California (February 9 - March 20, 1982).

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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.