

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

FOURTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215/842-6353

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RARELY SEEN GRAPHIC WORKS TO CHANGE REGULARLY
IN NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART'S DRAWINGS GALLERY

WASHINGTON, D.C. April 1, 1983. Twenty-five rarely seen old master and modern drawings acquired since 1978 make up the second installment in the exhibition of drawings in the new West Building Ground Floor drawings gallery beginning May 22, 1983. Selected from the Gallery's permanent collection by Andrew Robison, Senior Curator and Curator of the Graphic Arts Department, the drawings are scheduled to be changed every four months, and a third installation of drawings goes on view September 18, 1983. Prints and illustrated books from the permanent collection will be varied every six months.

The recently renovated galleries in the West Building contain an historical survey of prints, illustrated books and drawings which parallels the Gallery's permanent collection of paintings. The rotation system increases the sampling of graphic arts and prevents damage to works on paper by limiting their exposure to light.

The drawings in this latest group reflect a diversity of schools and media with American, British, European and Eastern European artists represented.

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François Boucher's Apollo, a gift of Robert H. and Clarice Smith, is one of Boucher's finest figure drawings. This male nude is a preparatory study for the initial figure in The Rising Sun, an important Boucher painting now in the Wallace Collection, London. Another eighteenth-century French drawing in this exhibition will be Louis-Rolland Trinquesse's charming Seated Woman Sewing. This red chalk drawing was recently donated by Mrs. H. S. Schaeffer.

Among the drawings portraying Biblical scenes is Pietro Testa's dramatic The Resurrection executed in the early 1640s. This is one of the most important Testa drawings to come to America and the first to be acquired by the National Gallery. It was purchased through the Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund in 1982.

One of the Gallery's rarest drawings, The Baptism of Christ, by Pietro Perugino, the great painter, draftsman and teacher of Raphael, is a preliminary study for a predella in a 1495 altarpiece for S. Pietro in Perugia.

While the work of Dirk Helmbrecker, a seventeenth-century Dutch painter and draftsman is not as well known as some of his contemporaries, the Helmbrecker self-portrait included in this selection is considered to be one of the greatest Dutch self-portraits of that period.

There are four American drawings acquired within the past two years from John Davis Hatch, noted collector and American art scholar. One, a rare self-portrait by Marsden

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Hartley, executed in black crayon, has a haunting quality reminiscent of the well-known Hartley photograph by Alfred Stieglitz, also on view at the Gallery in the current Stieglitz exhibition. Villa D'Este Tivoli by one of the most talented Hudson River landscapists, Jasper Francis Cropsey, is linear and precise in detail demonstrating Cropsey's architectural training. Study of a Cape is a chalk study by John Vanderlyn for his large mural, Landing of Columbus, a commission he received for the Capitol building in 1837. Henry Clay is portrayed by Charles Wesley Jarvis in a forceful character study which exhibits quickness and sureness of technique.

Modern works are represented by, among others, one of Laszlo Maholy-Nagy's large collages in his Q series from 1922-1923.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director (Information Officer), or Carolyn Amiot, Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565, (202) 842-6353.