

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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## SENIOR STAFF APPOINTMENTS AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART ANNOUNCED

WASHINGTON, D.C. August 18, 1983. Several senior staff appointments at the National Gallery of Art were announced today by J. Carter Brown, Director of the Gallery.

Victor C. B. Covey has been named Chief Conservator Emeritus and Senior Conservator for Special Assignments, in anticipation of his retirement next year. Ross Merrill replaces Mr. Covey as Chief of Conservation as of August 1, 1983. Nicolai Cikovsky, Jr., an authority on American painting and in particular the painter George Inness, has been appointed Curator of American Art. Susannah J. Fabing, formerly of the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard, joined the Gallery staff as Chief of Curatorial Records in the spring of this year.

Mr. Brown commented: "In view of Vic Covey's extraordinary ability as a conservator, I am delighted that it has been possible to work out a way in which Mr. Covey's time can be freed from administrative burdens so that the Gallery can take advantage of his accumulated experience to the maximum possible degree before his retirement. And we

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are indeed fortunate to have a conservator on staff of Mr. Merrill's caliber to fill this important post."

Victor Covey came to the National Gallery in 1972 after twenty-four years with the Baltimore Museum of Art. He is a Fellow of the International Institute for Conservation and the American Institute for Conservation, past President of the Washington Conservation Guild, and past Vice President of the National Conservation Advisory Council. Ross Merrill received his professional training at Oberlin College. He was head of the conservation department of the Cleveland Museum of Art from 1974 to 1981, when he joined the National Gallery staff as head of painting conservation.

John Wilmerding, Deputy Director of the Gallery in charge of curatorial staff, noted: "Following the recent appointment of S. J. Freedberg as Chief Curator, these new staff members represent important reinforcements of the Gallery's professional activities. In the case of Mr. Cikovsky, I'm particularly pleased that the Gallery's recent momentum in the American field will continue. Miss Fabing's position is a new one for the Gallery. The publication of the systematic catalogue of our collection and computerization of curatorial records and archives will better enable us to fulfill our obligation to the public at large."

Nicolai Cikovsky, Jr. received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1960. A Professor and former Chairman of the Department of Art at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, he has served as Chairman of the Art Department of Pomona

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College and Director of the Art Galleries of both Pomona and Vassar College. His publications include Samuel F. B. Morse's Lectures on the Affinity of Painting with the Other Fine Arts (1983); The Life and Work of George Inness (1977); George Inness (1971); as well as exhibition catalogues and articles in numerous scholarly journals.

Susannah J. Fabing received an A.M. from Harvard University in 1965. At Harvard's Fogg Art Museum, she has held the positions of Assistant Curator of Ancient Art, Assistant Director (1971-1979) and Deputy Director (1979-1983). Her publications include books and articles on classical and Etruscan art. At the National Gallery, Miss Fabing will administer the publication of a systematic catalogue of the collection. She will also supervise the computerization of all curatorial records and archives, making this data available to the public in convenient form for the first time.

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