

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

ADVANCE EXHIBITION SCHEDULE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 14, 1984

June 17 - September 23, 1984
WATTEAU - 1684-1721
West Building Ground Floor

Commemorating the 300th anniversary of the artist's birth, this exhibition is the first solely devoted to both the paintings and drawings of Jean-Antoine Watteau, the master who, in spite of a very brief career, is considered to be one of the greatest artists of all time. Forty paintings and ninety drawings are included in the exhibition which marks the first time an exhibition has been shared by Washington, Paris and Berlin. After its opening in Washington, the exhibition will be seen at the Grand Palais, Paris (October 23, 1984-January 28, 1985) and at the Charlottenburg Palace, Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany (February 22, 1985-May 26, 1985). Three of Watteau's most important paintings will be on view in the United States for the first time: the Gilles (c. 1716-1718), from the Louvre; The Embarkation for Cythera (c. 1718), which has just been purchased from the Prince von Hohenzollern for the Charlottenburg Palace, Berlin; and Gersaint's Shoptsign (c. 1720) also from Berlin. Pierre Rosenberg, Conservateur en Chef au Département des Peintures of the Louvre, and Margaret Morgan Grasselli, Assistant Curator in the National Gallery's Department of Prints and Drawings, have chosen the paintings and drawings respectively and have written corresponding entries for the fully illustrated catalogue.

July 1, 1984-October 28, 1984
THE ORIENTALISTS: DELACROIX TO MATISSE
The Allure of North Africa and the Near East
East Building, Upper Level

This exhibition was organized in conjunction with the Royal Academy of Arts in London (on view there March 24, 1984-May 20, 1984). It examines the response of important nineteenth-and twentieth-century European painters to the Near East, beginning with the Napoleonic era. Approximately ninety paintings are included by such artists as Delacroix, Ingres, Gérôme, Lewis, Renoir, Kandinsky, and Matisse. This exhibition has been augmented for the Washington showing; among the additions are works by American artists: Church, Gifford and Vedder. A catalogue reflecting these changes is being published especially for the National Gallery. Guest curator is MaryAnne Stevens of the Royal Academy. Florence Coman, Assistant Curator of Modern Painting at the National Gallery, is coordinating the exhibition at the Gallery.

(more)

19th CENTURY AMERICA ON PAPER--FOUR EXHIBITIONS

October 14, 1984 - January 27, 1985

THOMAS MORAN'S WATERCOLORS OF YELLOWSTONE

West Building Drawings Galleries

This exhibition presents a group of nineteen watercolors of Yellowstone National Park by Thomas Moran. Of this group, sixteen form the only existing complete set of Moran's Yellowstone watercolors. The works of art are being loaned by the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma. This is the first time the watercolors have been lent as a group since Thomas Gilcrease acquired them in 1947. Thomas Moran, an important painter of the American west, captured the clarity of atmosphere, vivid coloring, and dramatic geology of Yellowstone. He is best known for his watercolors and paintings of the area and his depictions helped to persuade Congress to declare Yellowstone our first national park. Linda Ayres, Assistant Curator, Department of American Art, is organizing the exhibition.

October 14, 1984 - January 13, 1985

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON: BIRDS OF AMERICA

West Building Ground Floor

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of John James Audubon, thirty-three works have been selected from his most famous series, The Birds of America. The complete series consists of 435 hand-colored engravings with aquatint in the unprecedented size of 39½ inches x 26 inches. The National Gallery's copy of the so-called Double Elephant Folio is one of only two known complete sets preserved in their original, unbound state. An ornithologist and artist, Audubon was the first to depict birds life size in their natural habitats. Audubon worked from 1827 until 1838 to execute this enormous portfolio. The exhibition is being organized by Carlotta J. Owens, Assistant Curator in the Gallery's Prints and Drawings Department.

October 14, 1984 - January 13, 1985

AMERICAN NAIVE WATERCOLORS AND DRAWINGS

West Building Ground Floor Galleries

This exhibition includes approximately fifty works of art on paper from the Gallery's Garbisch Collection, one of the country's foremost holdings of American naive art. Between 1953 and 1980, Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch assembled the most comprehensive collection in the field and generously gave the Gallery more than 400 works---including 100 works of art on paper. The last exhibition to feature Garbisch graphics was held at the Gallery in 1966-67. The majority of the works were executed in the nineteenth century. Among the wide range of media and subject matter represented are elaborate and boldly designed Pennsylvania German frakturs, detailed and calligraphic Shaker "sacred sheets" in pen and ink, mourning pictures, watercolor landscapes, large-scale pastel portraits, genre scenes and still lifes. Deborah Chotner, Assistant Curator, Department of American Art, is organizing the exhibition.

October 14, 1984-January 27, 1985

INDEX OF AMERICAN DESIGN

West Building Ground Floor

Eighty-five objects have been selected from approximately 17,000 watercolor renderings which make up the Index of American Design from the Gallery's permanent collection. The works in the Index depict American decorative arts of European origin from the colonial period through the nineteenth century. Established in 1935, the Index was a

federal work project employing artists during the Depression. This exhibition is divided loosely into four geographical areas: the Northeast, the Mid-Atlantic and Southern States, the Midwest and the Southwest in order to reflect not only the general character of the region, its history and traditional arts, but also the development of the Index project. The exhibition is being organized by Laurie Weitzenkorn, Assistant Curator, Index of American Design.

October 25, 1984 - January 13, 1985
OLD MASTER DRAWINGS FROM THE ALBERTINA
 East Building Ground Floor

From the world-famous Albertina in Vienna, this exhibition includes seventy-five old master drawings by some of the greatest draftsman of all time---Michelangelo, Raphael, Dürer, Cranach, Bruegel, Rubens, van Dyck, Rembrandt, Poussin, Claude and Fragonard, among others. Some, such as Dürer's Praying Hands, perhaps one of the most widely known and beloved old master drawings in the world, have never before been seen outside of the Albertina. The exhibition coincides with the bicentennial of political and economic relations between Austria and the United States. After its premiere at the National Gallery, it will be on view at the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York. The exhibition is being organized by Dr. Walter Koschatzky, Director of the Albertina, and by Andrew Robison, the Gallery's Senior Curator and Curator, Prints and Drawings. It is administered by the International Exhibitions Foundation and is sponsored by a grant from United Technologies Corporation.

November 18, 1984-February 24, 1985
GEMINI G.E.L.: ART AND COLLABORATION
 East Building Concourse Level

This exhibition celebrates the achievement of one of America's most important and influential printmaking workshops with a survey of Gemini's publications from its founding in 1966 to the present. Drawn from the Gemini G.E.L. Archive established at the National Gallery in 1981, the exhibition also includes unique works that have been borrowed especially for this occasion. The curator of the exhibition is Ruth E. Fine of the Gallery's Prints and Drawings Department. The exhibition will later travel to the Seattle Art Museum, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

November 22, 1984 - March 10, 1985
DEGAS: THE DANCERS
 East Building Upper Level

To mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Edgar Degas, this exhibition of approximately sixty works unites for the first time the artist's most important paintings and sculpture of ballet subjects and pastels and drawings related to them. The exhibition concentrates on four groups of closely related objects, spanning the artist's mature career (1870-1900) among them, Degas' most important sculpture, The Little Fourteen Year Old Dancer, from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon. The exhibition is being organized by George Shackelford, formerly a David E. Finley Fellow at the Center for the Advanced Study in the Visual Arts and now Assistant Curator of European Painting and Sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

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