

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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PRESS PREVIEW

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN PAINTINGS FROM THE ARMAND HAMMER COLLECTION  
TO GO ON VIEW AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 27, 1984. American Paintings from the Armand Hammer Collection: An Inaugural Celebration will highlight the National Gallery's Inaugural activities. This exhibition of more than fifteen American works from The Armand Hammer Collection goes on view on January 13, 1985 in Gallery 71 of the West Building and will continue through the Washington's birthday holiday weekend, closing on February 18, 1985. A fully illustrated brochure will accompany the exhibition.

Four works in the exhibition are new acquisitions of The Armand Hammer Collection. In commenting on this exhibition, J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery of Art, observed: "In their quality and diversity, these paintings reflect Dr. Hammer's lifelong dedication to collecting and exhibiting great art. On the occasion of this 50th Inaugural celebration, the National Gallery is pleased to join with Dr. Hammer in sharing these works of art with the public." Although drawings from the Hammer Collection have been frequently shown by the Gallery in a variety of exhibitions, this occasion marks the first time that any of Dr. Hammer's paintings will have been exhibited at the National Gallery.

The artists represented in the exhibition are Gilbert Stuart, John Singer Sargent, William Harnett, Charles Russell, Thomas Eakins, Mary Cassatt, Maurice Prendergast, Daniel Ridgway Knight, Frederic Remington, and Andrew Wyeth. The

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works in the exhibition span the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The most recently executed work in the exhibition is Wyeth's, Daydream, painted in 1980; this tempera on wood is a recent addition to The Armand Hammer Collection. Other new acquisitions are two works by Gilbert Stuart -- Portrait of George Frederick Nugent, 7th Earl of Westmeath and Portrait of George Thomas John, later 8th Earl of Westmeath -- and Daniel Ridgway Knight's Afternoon Tea.

Several works in the exhibition are portraits. Particularly notable for this Inaugural celebration is the famous Portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart. This is a half-length portrait of the first President seated at a table, which was painted for William D. Lewis in 1822. Two full-length portraits by John Singer Sargent are in the exhibition: Dr. Pozzi at Home, dramatically portrayed in a voluminous red robe, and Portrait of Mrs. Edward L. Davis and Her Son, Livingston Davis.

Mary Cassatt's Summertime is a portrait of a different sort -- two young women in an idyllic landscape, adrift in a boat on a lake or pond and surrounded by ducks. In Thomas Eakins' Portrait of Sebastiano Cardinal Martinelli, the subject is seated in a full-length composition at a contemplative distance from the viewer.

The American West is depicted in works by Frederic Remington and Charles Russell. Remington's Cowpuncher's Lullaby is a nocturnal scene, rare in Remington's work. It portrays a cowboy guarding a herd of cattle at night on the open range. He sings to them in the moonlight to prevent a stampede. Charles Russell's The War Party documents the Blackfeet Indians of northern Montana in a classic subject by the artist.

Adjacent to the exhibition American Paintings from the Armand Hammer Collection: An Inaugural Celebration, the Gallery will have on view in a special installation in Lobby D of the West Building its own portrait of The Washington Family painted by Edward Savage in 1796. This painting is the only portrait of

the first family to have been executed from life. The work has undergone extensive treatment in the Gallery's conservation laboratories during the past three years. It is being brought back on view as part of the Gallery's Inaugural activities. It will then rejoin the Gallery's permanent collection of American art -- which includes portraits by Gilbert Stuart of the first five American presidents -- in Galleries 60, 62, and 64 through 70 of the West Building.

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