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# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

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## NATIONAL GALLERY TO SHOW SELECTED WORKS FROM MELLON GIFTS

Title: Gifts to the Nation: Selected Acquisitions from the Collections of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon

WASHINGTON -- An exhibition of more than 85 works of art by French, British and American masters spanning the 18th - 20th centuries will go on view in the National Gallery of Art's West Building, July 20 - Oct. 19, 1986. Selected from the 822 works that Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon have donated to the National Gallery since 1964, the exhibition will feature outstanding paintings and works on paper by American artists Winslow Homer, George Bellows, Thomas Eakins and Maurice Prendergast, as well as European masters Paul Cézanne, Henri Matisse, Edgar Degas, Georges Seurat, Claude Monet, William Hogarth, John Crome and Richard Wilson.

J. Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery of Art, said: "This exhibition honors Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon, whose generosity has helped bring some of the world's great works of art to the American people. We are especially excited to present paintings from the Mellons' 1985 gift, some of which will be on view for the first time."

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Gifts to the Nation includes more than 65 paintings and 19 works on paper, and will be on view in the newly constructed Main Floor Galleries of the West Building. Many pieces have been selected from the Mellons' 1985 gift to the Gallery of 186 works of art, including Matisse's Pianist and Checker Players(1923) and Alfred Sisley's Flood at Port Marly(1872).

According to Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Mellon collected "what they enjoyed, those paintings and drawings which were treasures to the eye." "Consequently," added Brown, "this exhibition is a tribute to their unfailing sense of quality and beauty."

Gifts to the Nation reflects the Mellons' intense interest in British art of the 18th and 19th centuries. The exhibition includes: Hogarth's A Scene from the Beggar's Opera(1728), Devis' Arthur Holdsworth, Thomas Taylor and Captain Stancombe Conversing by the River Dart(1757), Crome's Moonlight on the Yare(c.1805-1815) and Zoffany's The Lavie Children(1769-1770). Also featured are French paintings of English locales, such as Pissarro's Charing Cross Bridge, London(1890) and Derain's View of the Thames(1906).

The Mellons' American paintings present in-depth studies of the works of a number of this nation's most significant artists. "The group of American paintings is particularly interesting because it contrasts depictions of lively action with more quiet, contemplative scenes," said John Wilmerding, deputy director of the National Gallery of Art. "Bellows' Tennis Tournament(1920) and Eakins' oil sketch, Study for Negro Boy Dancing(c.1878), are wonderfully attractive pictures of figures in motion. In terms of execution and content, these paintings display an energetic realism which is further heightened by the strong, mobile brushwork."

(more)

According to Wilmerding, Homer's The Red Schoolhouse(1873) shows in contrast, "a quietly posed figure in a landscape . . . reflecting the more personal, pastoral side of the artist."

This feeling is also evident in Bellows' portrait of his daughter, Anne with a Japanese Parasol(1917), a celebration of the innocence and the pleasures of childhood.

"Mr. and Mrs. Mellon's collection demonstrates their unerring eye for the most interesting and most characteristic works of the national schools that are represented in this exhibition," added Wilmerding. "Gifts to the Nation focuses on the essence, the best and the most typical work of each artist."

French impressionist and post-impressionist paintings form the major part of the exhibition. Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Mellon, who began to acquire their French paintings shortly after World War II, the Gallery's permanent collection now includes many works by Boudin, Monet and Cézanne, many of which have been selected for this exhibition. Among the works by Boudin is the unusually large Salon painting, Ships and Sailing Boats Leaving Le Havre(1883). The works by Cézanne include two significant landscapes, Houses in Provence(c.1880) and Bend in the Road(1900-1906), one of the artist's last landscapes.

This exhibition will also mark the return to the National Gallery of three works recently seen in The New Painting: Impressionism 1874-1886 exhibition: Claude Monet's Woman with a Parasol -- Madame Monet and Her Son (1875), Berthe Morisot's Hanging the Laundry Out to Dry(1875) and Georges Seurat's The Lighthouse at Honfleur(1886).

Many of the impressionist paintings on view are portraits by the painters of their friends and families. They represent a significant turning point in the field of portrait painting. Charles Stuckey, curator of modern painting at the National Gallery of Art, explained: "In terms of this exhibition, Monet's The Cradle -- Camille with the Artist's Son Jean(1867), Cézanne's Antony Valabrègue(1866) and Renoir's Claude Monet(1872) helped to redefine portrait painting, bringing an intimacy and informality to what were essentially private scenes. I consider them to be among the most moving portraits in the history of art."

Louis-Auguste Cézanne, the Artist's Father, Reading "l'Évenement"(1866) is another extraordinary painting by Cézanne, painted during the first decade of his career," Stuckey added. "In this highly charged psychological situation the artist's father, who wanted his son to become a banker not an artist, is depicted reading the politically left-wing periodical for which Cézanne's friend Emile Zola wrote art criticism. The throne-like chair and the deliberately awkward posing of the figure give a spirit of tender mockery to this portrait. The informality of the pose, with the figure looking down rather than out at the viewer, was an entirely new approach to portraiture."

With the Mellons' 1985 gift, the National Gallery now possesses excellent works on paper by Cézanne, Cassatt, Picasso, van Gogh and Braque. "The Mellon exhibition features some very fine works from the classic masters of modern art," said National Gallery of Art Senior Curator Andrew Robison. "Most impressive is Mary Cassatt's The Black Hat(c.1890). This pastel portrait -- the first Cassatt pastel in the National Gallery collection -- is one of her best, an arresting picture of a young woman in which the artist's very direct and very personal sense of her sitter is conveyed with a kind of haunting quality. The dynamic and swift lines which form the lapels of the coat give a sense of focus to the more highly finished areas of the sitter's face and neck."

"Picasso's Portrait of Ruth Dangler(1922), Braque's Aria de Bach(1913) and van Gogh's The Harvest(1888) are also among the outstanding works on paper in this exhibition," Robison added.

An illustrated collection of essays, In Honor of Paul Mellon Collector and Benefactor, has been published in conjunction with the exhibition. Edited by John Wilmerding, it explores various aspects of the Mellon collection and includes contributions by Nicolai Cikovsky, Jr., National Gallery of Art curator of American painting, John Walker, director emeritus, National Gallery of Art, impressionist scholar John Rewald and other such notable friends and colleagues.

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GIFTS TO THE NATION: SELECTED ACQUISITIONS FROM THE COLLECTIONS  
OF MR. AND MRS. PAUL MELLON

JULY 20 - OCTOBER 19, 1986

LIST OF WORKS IN THE EXHIBITION

Frédéric Bazille  
French, 1841-1870

- Negro Girl with Peonies, 1870  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.6
- The Ramparts at Aigues-Mortes, 1867  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.1
- Edmond Maître, 1869  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.2

George Bellows  
American, 1882-1925

- Anne with a Japanese Parasol, 1917  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.1
- Little Girl in White (Queenie Burnett), 1907  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.2
- My Family, 1916  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.3
- Tennis Tournament, 1920  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.5
- New York, February, 1911  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon
- Dempsey and Firpo, 1923-1924  
lithograph  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.83

Eugène Boudin  
French, 1824-1898

- Ships and Sailing Boats Leaving Le Havre, 1887  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.7
- Jetty and Wharf at Trouville, 1863  
oil on wood  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.9

Four Ladies in Crinolines Walking at Trouville, 1865  
pencil and watercolor  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.80

Ladies and Gentlemen Seated on the Beach with a Dog, 1866  
pencil and watercolor  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.75

Georges Braque  
French, 1882-1963

Aria de Bach, 1913  
collage with paper, imitation wood, charcoal, and chalk  
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1982.55.2

Gustave Caillebotte  
French, 1848-1894

Skiffs, 1877  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.6

Mary Cassatt

American, French School, 1844-1926

Child in a Straw Hat, c.1886  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.17

Little Girl in a Blue Armchair, 1878  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.18

The Black Hat, c.1890  
pastel  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.81

Paul Cézanne  
French, 1839-1906

The Artist's Father  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1970.5.1

Antony Valabrègue, 1866  
oil on linen  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1970.35.1

Houses in Provence, c.1880  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1973.68.1

Harlequin, 1888-1890  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.7

Bend in the Road, c.1900-1906  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.8

Mont Sainte-Victoire Seen beyond the Wall of the Jas de Bouffan,  
c.1885-1888  
chalk and watercolor  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.82

Self-Portrait, c.1880-1882  
pencil  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.85a

Trees Leaning over Rocks, c.1892  
chalk and watercolor  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.86

John Constable  
English, 1776-1837  
A Great Elm Tree, c.1801  
chalk and wash  
Gift of Paul Mellon 1985.9.1

Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot  
French, 1796-1875  
Young Girl Reading, 1868-1870  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.9

John Crome  
English, 1768-1821  
Moonlight on the Yare, c.1808/1815  
oil on canvas  
Paul Mellon Collection 1983.1.39

Edgar Degas  
French, 1834-1917  
Woman Ironing, 1882  
oil on linen  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1972.74.1

Woman Viewed from Behind,  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.11

Three Dancers Resting, c.1880  
charcoal and pastel  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.87

André Derain  
French, 1880-1954  
View of the Thames, 1906  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.12

Arthur Devis  
English, 1712-1787  
The Maynard Family in the Park at Waltons, Essex, 1756  
oil on canvas  
Paul Mellon Collection 1964.2.4

Arthur Holdsworth, Thomas Taylor, and Captain Stancombe  
Conversing by the River Dart, c.1757  
oil on canvas  
Paul Mellon Collection 1983.1.40

Raoul Dufy

French, 1877-1953

Music and the Pink Violin, 1952  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.14

Thomas Eakins

American, 1844-1916

Study for "Negro Boy Dancing": The Boy, c.1878  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.15

Study for "Negro Boy Dancing": The Banjo Player, c.1878  
oil on canvas mounted on cardboard  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.16

Henry Fuseli

Swiss, English School, 1741-1825

Oedipus Cursing His Son, Polynices, c.1776/1778  
oil on canvas  
Paul Mellon Collection 1983.1.41

Paul Gauguin

French, 1848-1903

Te Pape Nave Nave (Delectable Waters), 1898  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1973.68.2

Breton Girls Dancing, Pont-Aven, 1888  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.19

Landscape at Le Pouldu, 1890  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.20

Theodore Géricault

French, 1791-1824

The Boxers, 1818  
lithograph  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.169

Vincent van Gogh

Dutch, 1853-1890

Flower Beds in Holland, c.1883  
oil on canvas mounted on wood  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.21

The Harvest, 1888  
pencil and ink  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.91

- William M. Harnett  
American, 1848-1892  
A Sprig of Plums, 1873  
pencil and charcoal  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.98
- Frederick Childe Hassam  
American, 1859-1935  
Spectators at the Grand Prix, 1888  
pencil, watercolor, and gouache  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.99
- William Hogarth  
English, 1697-1764  
A Scene from the Beggar's Opera, c.1728  
oil on canvas  
Paul Mellon Collection 1983.1.42
- Winslow Homer  
American, 1836-1910  
The Red School House, 1873  
oil on canvas mounted on board  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.21
- Autumn, 1877  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.22
- Paul Klee  
Swiss, 1879-1940  
Steamship and Sailboats, 1931  
watercolor  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.93
- René Magritte  
Belgian, 1898-1967  
The Blank Signature, 1956  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.24
- Edouard Manet  
French, 1832-1883  
The Plum, c.1877  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1971.85.1
- Henri Matisse  
French, 1869-1954  
Pianist and Checker Players, 1924  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.25
- Still Life with Sleeping Woman, 1940  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.26

Self-Portrait, 1937

charcoal

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.104

## Claude Monet

French, 1840-1926

The Bridge at Argenteuil, 1874

oil on canvas

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.24

The Cradle - Camille with the Artist's Son Jean, 1867

oil on canvas

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.25

Interior, after Dinner, 1868/1869

oil on canvas

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.26

Waterloo Bridge, London, at Dusk, 1904

oil on canvas

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.27

Waterloo Bridge, London, at Sunset, 1904

oil on canvas

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.28

Woman with a Parasol - Madame Monet and Her Son, 1875

oil on canvas

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.29

Cliffs at Pourville, 1882

oil on canvas

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.27

## Berthe Morisot

French, 1841-1895

Hanging the Laundry out to Dry, 1875

oil on canvas

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.28

## Pablo Picasso

Spanish, 1881-1973

The Cup of Coffee, 1912

collage with paper, wallpaper, charcoal, and gouache

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.105

Ruth Dangler, 1922

pencil

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.106

## Camille Pissarro

French, 1830-1903

The Road from Versailles to Louveciennes, c.1872

pencil and watercolor

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.107

Bridge at Caracas, 1854  
pencil and watercolor  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.108

Maurice Brazil Prendergast  
American, 1859-1924

Salem Cove, 1916  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.33

Figures on a Beach, c.1910-1915  
chalk and watercolor  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.111

Revere Beach, c.1896  
watercolor  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.112

Odilon Redon  
French, 1840-1916

Five Butterflies, c.1912  
watercolor  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.113

Auguste Renoir  
French, 1841-1919

Flowers in a Vase, c.1866  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.32

Claude Monet, 1872  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.35

Robert Salmon  
English/American, 1775-c.1845

The Ship "Favorite" Maneuvering off Greenock, 1819  
oil on canvas  
Paul Mellon Collection 1981.54.1

Georges Seurat  
French, 1859-1891

The Lighthouse at Honfleur, 1886  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.33

Alfred Sisley  
French, 1839-1899

Flood at Port-Marly, 1872  
oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.38

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec  
French, 1864-1901

A la Bastille (Jeanne Wenz), 1888  
oil on canvas

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.39

Félix Vallotton  
Swiss, 1865-1925

The Wind, 1910  
oil on canvas

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.41

Jacques Villon  
French, 1875-1963

Sulking Woman, 1900  
etching and aquatint, printed in color

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.179

The Cards, 1903

etching with drypoint and aquatint, printed in color

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.180

The Parisienne, 1903

etching with drypoint and aquatint, printed in color

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.182

Yvonne D. in Profile, 1913

drypoint

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.186

Edouard Vuillard  
French, 1868-1940

Woman in a Striped Dress, 1895

oil on canvas

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1983.1.38

The Square

brush and ink

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon 1985.64.116

Francis Wheatley  
English, 1747-1801

Family Group, c.1775/1776

oil on canvas

Paul Mellon Collection 1983.1.43

Richard Wilson  
English, 1714-1782

Lake Albano, 1762

oil on canvas

Paul Mellon Collection 1983.1.44

Solitude, 1774

oil on canvas

Paul Mellon Collection 1983.1.45

Joseph Wright of Derby  
English, 1734-1797

Corinthian Maid, 1783/1784

oil on canvas

Paul Mellon Collection 1983.1.46

Italian Landscape, 1790

oil on Canvas

Paul Mellon Collection 1983.1.47

Johann Zoffany

German, English School, 1733-1810

The Lavie Children, c.1760/1772

oil on canvas

Paul Mellon Collection 1983.1.48