

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

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WORKS BY 16TH CENTURY MASTER DRAFTSMEN ON VIEW AT NATIONAL GALLERY

Title: The Age of Bruegel: Netherlandish Drawings of the Sixteenth Century

WASHINGTON - The first exhibition in the United States devoted to 16th century Dutch and Flemish drawings will be on view at the National Gallery of Art, Nov. 7, 1986 - Jan. 18, 1987. The Age of Bruegel: Netherlandish Drawings of the Sixteenth Century consists of more than 100 drawings from major museums and private collections in Europe and America. The exhibition presents a survey of rare drawings with a wide range of styles and subject matter and will span the entire 16th century.

Many of the drawings in this exhibition have never been shown in the United States, among them Sculpture Court of the Casa Sassi in Rome (c.1553) by Maerten van Heemskerck and Allegory of Time (c.1583/85) by Bartholomeus Spranger.

Several of the drawings are being displayed to the public for the first time, including Dirck Barendsz' Mankind Awaiting the Last Judgment (1581) and Anthonis Blocklandt's Christ Blessing the Children (c.1579).

(more)

Works by Lucas van Leyden and Bernard van Orley, artists whose drawings are not represented in any public collection in the United States, will also be included.

The earliest drawings in the exhibition, by Hieronymus Bosch and Gerard David, are representative of the late Gothic style. Other drawings from this early period, such as Jan Gossaert's Apollo (c.1509), illustrate the awakening of interest in antique art by Netherlandish artists. The influence and assimilation of contemporary Italian art at this time is seen in Jan van Scorel's Abraham and Melchizedek (c.1540), as well as in November (c.1525) by Bernard van Orley.

The exhibition will also include works by Pieter Bruegel the Elder, one of the greatest and best-known artists of the 16th century. Bruegel will be represented by eight of his finest landscape and figure drawings, among them The Beekeepers (1565) and Landscape with St. Jerome (1553).

Later works demonstrate the wide range of styles and subject matter employed by Netherlandish artists in the last years of the 16th century. The influence of the Italian mannerists is reflected in the elegant styles of Hans Speckaert, Anthonis Blocklandt, and Bartholomeus Spranger.

The more indigenous Netherlandish landscape tradition is represented by works such as David Vinckboons' Fete in a Park (c.1602/04) and Paulus van Vianen's Forest Scene (c.1601/03), as well as landscape drawings by Jan Brueghel the Elder and Jacques and Roelandt Savery. Also included are groups of drawings by the virtuoso draftsmen Jacques de Gheyn II and Hendrick Goltzius, among them De Gheyn's Three Studies of a Dragonfly (c.1600) and Goltzius' Hercules Farnese from the Back (c.1591).

The exhibition is organized by John Hand, curator of northern Renaissance painting at the National Gallery of Art; Martha Wolff, curator of European painting before 1750 at The Art Institute of Chicago; William W. Robinson, associate curator of drawings and prints, The Pierpont Morgan Library, and Professor J. Richard Judson, University of North Carolina. This exhibition is supported by Shell Companies Foundation, Incorporated, and Unilever United States, Inc. After leaving the National Gallery the exhibition will go on view at the Pierpont Morgan Library, Jan. 29 - Apr. 5, 1987. A fully illustrated catalogue will accompany the exhibition.