

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

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HOLD FOR RELEASE: Feb. 27, 1987

DRAWINGS FROM BRITISH ROYAL COLLECTION TO COME TO NATIONAL GALLERY Princess Alexandra to Represent Royal Family at Preview

WASHINGTON - The National Gallery of Art announced today that it will present an exhibition of 61 of the finest master drawings from the collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the Royal Library, Windsor Castle, the first time a survey exhibition from the Royal Collection has ever traveled from England. The Royal Library includes superlative works of art in numerous areas but is most widely known for its extraordinary old master drawings, particularly of the Italian School. Entitled Italian Master Drawings from the British Royal Collection: Leonardo to Canaletto, the exhibition brings together works by the foremost Italian masters of the 15th through the 18th centuries, including Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael, as well as Giovanni Bellini and Domenico Ghirlandaio. The exhibition will be on view at the National Gallery of Art East Building, May 10 through July 26, 1987. Pan American World Airways has been designated the official carrier of the exhibition.

The National Gallery also announced that Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra will represent the Royal Family at a dinner in the East Building on May 6 to mark the occasion of this extraordinary Royal loan.

The selection of drawings was made by Jane Roberts, curator of the Print Room at the Royal Library, Windsor, and Andrew Robison, senior curator at the National Gallery of Art. Ms. Roberts is also the author of the catalogue that will accompany the exhibition.

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According to Andrew Robison, "The intention is to show the finest and most beautiful drawings possible. With the world's foremost private collection of old master drawings to choose from, we were able to draw upon the best part of Windsor's drawings, the Italian, from the 15th through the 18th centuries. The resulting exhibition is as unique for its history as it is for its remarkable beauty."

The 30,000 old master and modern drawings, housed in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle, have been gathered by many monarchs over the course of more than three centuries. Although the collection is most famous for the unrivaled group of 600 Leonardos, it also includes concentrations of the work of other great draftsmen as well as single sheets chosen according to the changing tastes and interests of the Royal Family. Over the years, skillful and vigilant advisors to the Crown have assisted with the acquisitions of individual drawings and entire collections.

After leaving the National Gallery of Art, the exhibition will travel to the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (Aug. 8 - Oct. 25, 1987) and the Art Institute of Chicago (Nov. 10, 1987 - Jan. 26, 1988). This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

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