

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

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BERTHE MORISOT RETROSPECTIVE AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
Impressionist Artist is Honored with First Major American Exhibition

EXHIBITION TITLE: BERTHE MORISOT - Impressionist

WASHINGTON, June 17, 1987 - The National Gallery of Art will present the first comprehensive American exhibition devoted to the work of the French Impressionist artist Berthe Morisot (1841-1895). This retrospective will be accompanied by an exhibition catalogue written by Charles F. Stuckey, curator for modern painting at the National Gallery of Art and William P. Scott, a painter and noted authority on Morisot. The exhibition and catalogue represent the first significant reevaluation of Morisot's career in more than 25 years.

BERTHE MORISOT - Impressionist will be on view in the West Building of the National Gallery of Art, Sun., Sept. 6 through Sun., Nov. 29, 1987. The exhibition is organized by the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum in association with the National Gallery of Art. It is supported by a generous contribution from Republic National Bank of New York and Banco Safra, S.A., Brazil.

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"Although Berthe Morisot was one of the great woman artists of the 19th century, and perhaps of all time, an exhibition of her works has never been presented by any American museum," said J. Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery of Art. "We are, therefore, proud to join with Mount Holyoke in bringing to the American public an exhibition that I believe assesses Morisot's place within Impressionism and clearly establishes her in the vanguard of that movement."

A founding member of the society of Impressionist artists, Morisot was held in the highest esteem by Monet, Renoir and Degas. By 1880 many critics and young artists, including Seurat, came to see her as possibly the boldest and most original member of the group. That her name is not as well-known today as many of her colleagues is due in part to the fact that she shunned publicity of any sort.

In her art Morisot evoked a sense of enchantment with the simple pleasures of everyday life, the wonders of commonplace experiences. "Like her mentor and brother-in-law, Edouard Manet, Morisot sought to see the world without adult preconceptions, to see with the fascination and surprise of a child," according to Charles F. Stuckey, curator of modern painting at the National Gallery. "The works from the 1870s frequently include small children who appear awestruck by butterflies, or by sailboats so far away that they look no bigger than toys."

BERTHE MORISOT - Impressionist is a full-scale retrospective of Morisot's career, consisting of 60 oil paintings, as well as selected pastels, watercolors and color pencil drawings from both American and European public and private collections. The selection has been based primarily on quality, but also emphasizes the originality of Morisot's work. The exhibition will highlight those works that the artist herself chose to exhibit during her lifetime as well as works that anticipated developments in the careers of her colleagues, most notably Monet and Degas.

William P. Scott was instrumental in selecting and locating the works in the exhibition. Teri J. Edelstein, director of the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, provided valuable assistance in the planning and preparation of the show, which occurs in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of Mount Holyoke College. The Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities has provided an indemnity for the exhibition.

After leaving the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the exhibition will be on view at the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas, Dec. 12, 1987 to Feb. 21, 1988 and at the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, South Hadley, Massachusetts, March 14 to May 9, 1988.

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REPUBLIC NEW YORK CORPORATION AND THE ARTS

Republic New York Corporation has had a long-standing commitment to the arts. The Corporation's support of the "Berthe Morisot--Impressionist" exhibition at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., is the latest example of Republic's interest in bringing art and culture to the widest possible audience. Republic previously sponsored at the National Gallery the "Renaissance Master Bronzes" exhibition in 1986 and "An American Perspective" in 1981.

In addition, Republic has sponsored the "Eleven Painters: Artists of the Region" invitational exhibition at Guild Hall in East Hampton, New York, in 1986 and is sponsoring the "New Spaces/New Faces" exhibition at Guild Hall beginning July 6, 1987. Walter H. Weiner, Chairman of Republic, is a trustee of Guild Hall.

In keeping with its desire to make art easily accessible to many, Republic was recently a local underwriter for the Public Broadcasting Service's "American Masters" television series. Hosted by Joanne Woodward, this series of programs was shown from July to September 1986. It included profiles of the lives and works of America's great writers, artists, and composers, including Truman Capote, George Gershwin, Aaron Copeland, Thomas Eakins and Eugene O'Neill.

Republic also provides regular financial aid to two of New York's most important museums, the Brooklyn Museum and the Museum of Modern Art. Jeffrey C. Keil, Republic's President, takes an active role in the management of the Brooklyn Museum's affairs.

Republic also has sponsored individual art and musical events, such as the "Andrew Wyeth Retrospective" exhibition in London in 1980, and a production of "La Boheme" at the Metropolitan Opera.

As Republic has grown into an international bank with a world-wide presence, so has its support for the arts extended beyond the New York metropolitan area. The Corporation is, thus, proud to serve as a patron for an important exhibition to take place in our nation's capital.

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