



THE ART OF PAUL GAUGUIN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GAUGUIN RETROSPECTIVE IN WASHINGTON, CHICAGO AND PARIS

EXHIBITION TITLE: The Art of Paul Gauguin

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 1987 - The National Gallery of Art and The Art Institute of Chicago in the United States, and the Galeries nationales du Grand Palais in Paris, will present the most comprehensive exhibition ever, and the first major retrospective in nearly 30 years devoted to works by the French post-impressionist artist Paul Gauguin (1848-1903). The Art of Paul Gauguin is jointly organized by the National Gallery, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Reunion des Musees Nationaux. More than 230 objects will be brought together from collections in Europe, Asia, Polynesia, Australia, and North and South America.

The Art of Paul Gauguin will be on view in the National Gallery's East Building May 1 through July 31, 1988. It will travel to Chicago for presentation in the Art Institute's Regenstein Hall from Sept. 17 through Dec. 11. The exhibition will appear at the Galeries nationales du Grand Palais, Paris, Jan. 10 through April 20, 1989.

The organization of the exhibition and the two presentations in the United States are made possible by AT&T. The exhibition in Paris is presented by Olivetti and co-sponsored by AT&T. AT&T and Olivetti are partners in office automation marketing projects. Olivetti is headquartered in Italy.

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NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART,
WASHINGTON
May 1-July 31, 1988

THE ART INSTITUTE
OF CHICAGO
September 17-December 11, 1988

GALERIES NATIONALES
DU GRAND PALAIS
January 10-April 20, 1989

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"This exhibition is a celebration of Paul Gauguin, the artist-traveler, taking us from his early years in France through sojourns in Brittany and Martinique, his work side by side with Van Gogh in Arles, and then finally, to Tahiti," said J. Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery of Art. "The Art of Paul Gauguin is the first exhibition since the memorial show in Paris in 1906 to cover the full range of Gauguin's work: painting, sculpture, ceramics and graphic arts."

James N. Wood, director of The Art Institute of Chicago discussed the scholarly impact of the exhibition: "Gauguin was the greatest colorist of the late 19th century and the principal source for a tradition in 20th-century painting that continued with Matisse. During the five-year preparation of this exhibition a wealth of new technical and documentary material has come to light that will contribute significantly to our understanding of Gauguin's life and work."

James E. Olson, chairman and chief executive officer of AT&T said, "We at AT&T are committed to 'the world of ideas.' The world of ideas informs the scientific and technological basis of our business. And the world of ideas gives rise to the arts. We believe that neither science nor technology, nor, in fact the arts, are an end in themselves, but a means of constant discovery."

"The world of ideas shapes our sense of the possibilities of life," Olson continued. "Gauguin's world of ideas, reflecting his extraordinary sense of the possibilities of life, is presented in this international exhibition. And we are pleased, as part of our ongoing association with the arts, to make possible the largest and most comprehensive exhibition of Gauguin's art ever seen."

The curators of The Art of Paul Gauguin are among the most distinguished scholars in the field of late 19th-century French art: Françoise Caçhin, director, Musée d'Orsay; Claire Frèches, curator of painting, Musée d'Orsay; Richard Brettell, Searle curator of paintings, The Art Institute of Chicago; and Charles F. Stuckey, curator of 20th-century art, The Art Institute of Chicago and formerly of the National Gallery; and Peter Zegers, special consultant for the exhibition. The presentation at the National Gallery is being coordinated by Charles S. Moffett, senior curator of painting at the Gallery.

During the 55 years he lived, Paul Gauguin was a merchant seaman, a stockbroker, a ditch digger, an artist, a writer, and a journalist. He was born in the midst of the 1848 revolutions, the only son of a left-wing journalist who was exiled from France in 1850. Gauguin spent his childhood first in Peru, where he lived with relatives, and then in the small city of Orléans, France. His remaining years were spent in a series of self-imposed exiles in Denmark, Brittany, Panama, Martinique, Tahiti, and finally, the Marquesan Islands.

The image of Gauguin as a free-spirited libertine has been celebrated in films, novels, stories and biographies to such an extent that his art has sometimes been overshadowed by his life. The Art of Paul Gauguin, therefore, will be the first opportunity for many viewers to appreciate Gauguin's art simply on the basis of the works themselves.

Although the exhibition includes a carefully selected group of works from Gauguin's impressionist period (1877-1886), the show's primary emphasis is on the post-impressionist years (1887-1903). The majority of these works is selected from the paintings, sculpture, ceramics, prints and drawings that Gauguin chose or created for major exhibitions during his lifetime.

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The curatorial team has located works of art in public and private collections throughout the world. These works have been selected to enable the viewer to explore the artist's own thoughts as ideas were translated from one work to another. For the first time, series of individual works by Gauguin that explore a single motif in several media will be united in each venue of the exhibition.

The fully-illustrated catalogue, contains more than 500 pages that comprise both a record of Gauguin's career and a detailed account of the works presented in the exhibition. Co-authored by the curators and exhibition staffs, it includes many reappraisals of familiar works as well as suggestions for new approaches to the study of Gauguin's art. The catalogue will also include an illustrated chronology of the artist's life as chronicled in letters and documents.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Please contact Randall Kremer, National Gallery of Art, (202) 842-6353 or Eileen Harakal, The Art Institute of Chicago, (312) 443-3624.

Gauguin

THE ART OF PAUL GAUGUIN

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART May 1, 1988-July 31, 1988
THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO September 17, 1988-December 11, 1988
GALERIES NATIONALES DU GRAND PALAIS JANUARY 10, 1989-APRIL 20, 1989

Selected Checklist

1. Suzanne sewing, 1880
Oil on canvas, 45 1/8 X 31 1/4"
Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Copenhagen
2. The Breton Shepherdess, 1886
Oil on canvas, 23 3/4 X 28 7/8"
Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear Museums Service
3. The First Flowers--Brittany, 1888
Oil on canvas, 28 3/4 X 36 3/8"
On loan at Kunsthaus Zürich
4. Little Breton Shepherd, 1888
Oil on canvas, 35 1/4 X 45 7/8"
The National Museum of Western Art, Matsukata Collection, Tokyo
5. Old Women at Arles, 1888
Oil on canvas, 28 3/4 X 36 1/4"
The Art Institute of Chicago, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Larned Coburn Memorial Collection
6. Cup in the form of a Head, Self Portrait, 1889
Ceramic, 7 5/8" high
Museum of Decorative Art, Copenhagen
7. The Yellow Christ, 1889
Oil on canvas, 36 1/4 X 28 7/8"
Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York; General Purchase Funds, 1946
8. Self-Portrait, 1889
Oil on wood, 31 1/2 X 20 1/2"
National Gallery of Art, Washington
Chester Dale Collection (Exhibited in Washington only)
9. Christ in the Garden of Olives, 1889
Oil on canvas, 28 3/4 X 36 1/4"
Norton Gallery of Art, West Palm Beach, Florida

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10. Bonjour Monsieur Gauguin, 1889
Oil on canvas, 36 3/8 X 29 1/8"
Narodni Galerie v Praze, Prague
11. The Siesta, probably 1891-1892
Oil on canvas, 34 1/4 X 45 5/8"
From the collection of the Hon. Walter H. Annenberg
12. Vahine no te miti (Woman at the Sea), 1892
Oil on canvas, 35 1/2 X 28 3/4"
Museo Nacional de Belles Artes, Buenos Aires
13. Parau na te varua ino (Words of the Devil), 1892
Oil on canvas, 36 1/8 X 27"
National Gallery of Art, Washington
Gift of the W. Averell Harriman Foundation in memory of Marie N. Harriman
14. Te Nave Nave Fenua (The Land of Sensuous Pleasure), 1892
Oil on canvas, 35 7/8 X 28 3/8"
Ohara Museum of Art, Kurashiki, Japan
15. Idole with a Pearl, 1892
Polychromed tamanu wood, 9 7/8" high
Musée d'Orsay, Paris
16. Manao tupapau (The Spirit of the Dead Watching), 1892
Oil on burlap mounted on canvas, 28 1/2 X 36 3/8"
Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York
A. Conger Goodyear Collection, 1965
17. Aita tamari Vahina Judith te parari (The child-woman Judith is not yet breached), 1893
Oil on canvas, 45 3/4 X 31 7/8"
Private Collection
18. Oviri, 1894
Stoneware, 29 1/8" high
Musée d'Orsay, Paris
19. Te Rerioa (The Dream), 1897
Oil on canvas, 37 1/2 X 51 1/4"
Courtauld Institute Galleries (Courtauld Collection), London
20. Still Life with Sunflowers and Mangoes, 1901
Oil on canvas, 26 X 30"
Private Collection--Lausanne, Switzerland
21. Horsemen on the Beach, 1902
Oil on canvas, 28 3/4 X 36 1/4"
Private Collection