

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL GALLERY TO SHOW FLAG PAINTINGS OF AMERICAN IMPRESSIONIST CHILDE HASSAM

WASHINGTON, March 13, 1988 - The National Gallery of Art will pay tribute to one of America's foremost painters, Childe Hassam (1859-1935), with an exhibition of 21 of his World War I era flag paintings. Entitled The Flag Paintings of Childe Hassam, this will be the most complete showing of the paintings since the artist's lifetime. The exhibition, which has been organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, will open at the National Gallery's East Building on May 8, 1988, where it will be on view through July 17, 1988.

This is the second of three National Gallery exhibitions to recognize the achievements of American impressionist painters. The series, Masters and Masterpieces of American Impressionism, opened last year with William Merritt Chase: Summers at Shinnecock 1891 - 1902 and the third exhibition in 1989 will present the works of John Twachtman. The entire series is made possible at the National Gallery by Bell Atlantic.

(more)

"When Childe Hassam began his series of flag paintings, in 1916, he was regarded as America's most important impressionist painter," said J. Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery of Art. "The spirit he captures in these pictures is one of the great city of New York calling for all Americans to support the ideals that brought the nation into the First World War. These strikingly atmospheric images are among Hassam's greatest achievements, and their presentation during this, our most patriotic of seasons, seems a fitting tribute to the vision of the man who created them."

The paintings in the exhibition were selected by Ilene Susan Fort, associate curator of American art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The exhibition was coordinated at the National Gallery by Deborah Chotner, assistant curator of American art.

A fully illustrated catalogue will accompany the exhibition, written by Ilene Susan Fort and published by Harry N. Abrams, Inc. It represents the first in-depth study of Hassam's flag paintings and includes new information and rare period photographs documenting the World War I homefront activities that Hassam captured in his paintings.

After leaving the National Gallery, The Flag Paintings of Childe Hassam will be on view at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (Aug. 21 - Oct. 30, 1988), the Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas (Jan. 7 - March 12, 1989), and the New-York Historical Society (April 20 - June 25, 1989).

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