

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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Press Preview: Tues., May 24  
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## OLD MASTER PAINTINGS FROM MUNICH ON VIEW IN WASHINGTON

Washington, D.C., May 4, 1988 - Sixty-two European masterworks from one of the most distinguished public collections in Europe are featured in an exhibition opening at the National Gallery of Art on May 29, 1988. Masterworks from Munich: Sixteenth- to Eighteenth- Century Paintings from the Alte Pinakothek is the first major showing in this country of works of art from the renowned Bavarian art museum.

Masterworks from Munich highlights examples of all the major schools of baroque painting within the wider context of the style's 16th-century antecedents and 18th-century evolution into the rococo. Included in the exhibition are Rubens' The Rape of the Daughters of Leucippus, Rembrandt's Risen Christ, Titian's Vanity, El Greco's The Disrobing of Christ, and Fragonard's Girl with a Dog as well as important works by Guardi, Tintoretto, Brueghel, Van Dyck, Ruisdael, Elsheimer, Murillo, Velazquez, Poussin, and Boucher.

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"An extraordinary loan has made this exhibition possible," said J. Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery. "The Alte Pinakothek has been extremely generous in offering works by old masters from its collection illustrating its wealth of northern and southern baroque painting. The quality level is superb. The American public is in for a rare treat."

The collection was started by members of the ruling Wittelsbach family, Duke Wilhelm IV of Bavaria (ruled 1508-1550) and his wife Jacobaea of Baden, and augmented by subsequent family members, including Maximilian I (ruled 1597-1651), a passionate collector of Durers, and Max Emanuel (ruled 1679-1726). When Max Emanuel's grandson, Elector Maximilian III Joseph, died without an heir in 1777, the Palatine branch of the family took over the succession and integrated the already existing galleries of Mannheim, Zweibrucken and Dusseldorf into the collection. The most significant of these, the Dusseldorf Gallery, contained important examples of Dutch and Flemish painting, including Brueghel's The Magnanimity of Scipio, Van Dyck's Self-Portrait, and Terborch's A Boy and His Dog as well as Italian works such as Bassano's Madonna and Child and Carlo Dolci's Madonna of the Lilies, all of which are in this exhibition.

"Pinakothek," the ancient Greek word for picture collection, was what Ludwig I called the building he commissioned in 1826 in Munich for the three-hundred-year-old collection. The museum became the Alte Pinakothek, or old picture gallery, when the Neue Pinakothek, or new picture gallery, opened across the street in 1853. Although the museum's contents were moved to safety, the building was extensively damaged in World War II. It was restored to nearly original condition during the following ten years. Today the Alte Pinakothek houses 800 paintings from the Bavarian State Painting Collection of 20,000 works of art.

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A fully illustrated catalogue by Beverly Louise Brown, guest curator of southern baroque painting, and Arthur K. Wheelock, Jr., curator of northern baroque painting at the National Gallery of Art, will accompany the exhibition which has been jointly organized by the Cincinnati Art Museum and the National Gallery. Masterworks from Munich will travel to Cincinnati October 25, 1988 through January 8, 1989 as a tribute to the Cincinnati Bicentennial and the city's German heritage. The exhibition is supported by the foreign office of the Federal Republic of Germany, by the German-American Cultural Fund, Inc., and by an indemnity from the U. S. Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. Lufthansa German Airlines is the official carrier for the exhibition.