

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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ROGER MANDLE NAMED SUCCESSOR TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Washington, D.C., July 13, 1988 - The Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Art today elected Roger Mandle as deputy director of the National Gallery. Mr. Mandle is director of Ohio's Toledo Museum of Art. He will move to Washington in the fall to succeed outgoing deputy director John Wilmerding.

In addition to his directorship of the Toledo Museum, Mr. Mandle is chairman of the executive committee of the American Federation of Arts and played a key role in its recent merger with the Art Museum Association of America, of which he was president. He serves on both the Museum Advisory Panel and the Indemnity Panel of the National Endowment for the Arts.

"We are delighted that Roger Mandle will be joining the National Gallery as our new deputy director," said J. Carter Brown, the Gallery's director. "His experience as director of one of the country's finest museums will be invaluable in assuming this very important role." Mr. Mandle will exercise the responsibilities of the director in his absence and act at all other times as his overall deputy, having charge of eight

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major departments, including supervision of art care, exhibitions, and related activities.

John Wilmerding, who leaves the National Gallery in September to become Sarofim professor in American art at Princeton University, said today, "I can't think of a more appropriate replacement to take on the complex tasks of this post. Over the past eleven years, Roger Mandle has guided the growth of the Toledo Museum with administrative skill, managerial expertise, and astute curatorial judgment. He is exceptionally well suited to meeting the stimulating challenges this role presents."

During his tenure as director of the Toledo Museum of Art, Mr. Mandle has been responsible for significant growth and innovation in all aspects of the museum's activities, including a major renovation of the museum's facilities, enhancement of the permanent collection, strengthening of the art education department, publication of scholarly catalogues of the collections, and the fostering of important international cultural exchanges. His initiation and implementation of a long-term renovation and modernization program of the museum's galleries, concert hall, conservation lab, and design school are now nearing completion, and substantial funds have already been raised for a new facility to house the museum's art education department, uniquely affiliated with the University of Toledo. With exceptional skill as a manager and administrator, he has expertly guided the growth of the museum's staff from less than 60 in 1976 to 275 today. He has also led an ambitious acquisitions program, bringing to the museum major works of art in a variety of fields,

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including old master paintings, antiquities, twentieth-century art, and decorative and graphic arts.

In 1982, Mr. Mandle organized the El Greco of Toledo exhibition, which was five years in the planning and drew from monasteries, churches, museums, and private collectors all over the world. The exhibition represented the most comprehensive collection of El Greco's paintings ever assembled. Highly acclaimed by critics, scholars, and the public, the exhibition was seen by more than two million people in four museums around the world, including the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. For this important effort, he received the award of knight of the Order of Isabel the Catholic by His Majesty Juan Carlos in 1985.

Last year, Mr. Mandle initiated an important Soviet paintings exchange with the Toledo Museum. Rembrandt's "Holy Family with Angels" was brought from the Hermitage Museum in Moscow in exchange for the Toledo Museum's "Christ at Gethsemane" by El Greco.

Mr. Mandle joined the Toledo Museum of Art as associate director in 1974 under Otto Wittmann and was appointed director in 1977. Previously, he was associate director of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts from 1967 to 1974.

Born in New Jersey in 1941, Mr. Mandle graduated cum laude from Williams College in 1963, one of the younger generation of museum directors produced by that college now a major force in half a dozen of the country's most prominent art institutions.

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In 1967, he received his M.A. from the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University, having previously held internships at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Mr. Mandle received fellowships from the Ford Foundation in 1966 and the National Endowment for the Arts in 1974. He has published numerous articles in his field of study, eighteenth-century Dutch painting, and has lectured widely on the public and professional concerns of museums. He has served as chairman of the Government and Art Committee of the Association of Art Museum Directors and is a trustee of the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts.

Mr. Mandle holds honorary doctor of fine arts degrees from the University of Toledo and Kenyon College. In 1983, he received both the Ohio Governor's Award and the Ohio Art Education Distinguished Citizen Award for his contribution to the enrichment of cultural life of Ohioans.