

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART ANNOUNCES AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY GRANT IN
SUPPORT OF 10th-ANNIVERSARY INSTALLATION OF 20th-CENTURY COLLECTION
Many Recent Acquisitions Never Before Exhibited at the Gallery

Press Conference: Tuesday, December 13, 1988, 9:00 am

Washington, D.C., October 28, 1988 -- The National Gallery of Art today announced a major grant from American Express Company to support an installation of the Gallery's twentieth-century collections in celebration of the tenth anniversary of its East Building. The installation, entitled Twentieth-Century Art: Selections for the Tenth Anniversary of the East Building, will be completed in early December and remain on view for two years. It will contain over 200 paintings, sculptures, and works on paper including many recent acquisitions never before exhibited at the Gallery as well as special loans of related works of art.

The National Gallery's East Building, designed by I.M. Pei, houses the museum's collection of twentieth-century art, administrative offices, and the Center for Advanced Study of the Visual Arts. It has also enabled the National Gallery to increase its exhibition program by providing a highly flexible space for temporary exhibitions. Since the East Building's public opening on June 1, 1978, these have numbered more than 160. In the last ten years, the Gallery's collection of modern art has grown significantly, reflecting a curatorial desire to achieve in-depth concentrations of the work of a range of twentieth-century masters. Included in the many acquisitions of the Gallery since 1978 are works by Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, René Magritte,

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Jackson Pollock, Barnett Newman, Frank Stella, Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein, David Smith, Mark Rothko and Richard Diebenkorn as well as important groups of paintings, sculptures and drawings by other artists.

The installation, initiated and coordinated by National Gallery curators of twentieth-century art, Jack Cowart and Nan Rosenthal in conjunction with Gaillard Ravenel and Mark Leithauser of the Gallery's department of installation and design, will occupy over 30,000 square feet on three of the five levels of the East Building.

"There is no more fitting way to mark the tenth anniversary of the East Building than with this much expanded installation of the Gallery's twentieth-century collection," said J. Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery. "The new installation will demonstrate our progress in expanding the Gallery's collection of modern art. In the last decade we have accomplished a great deal in this area through the generosity of many donors and the National Gallery of Art Collectors Committee."

"Over the past ten years the National Gallery's East Building has become an American landmark presenting international art of the 20th century," said James D. Robinson III, chairman and chief executive officer of American Express Company. "American Express is proud to continue this precedent and help install the Gallery's collection of modern masterpieces."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION about the exhibition please contact Katie Ziglar, National Gallery of Art (202) 842-6353. For information about American Express and its support of the exhibition please contact Anne Irwin, Arts & Communications Counselors (212) 715-1524.

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