

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL GALLERY TO OFFER SUMMER ART INSTITUTES FOR TEACHERS

Washington, DC, April 6, 1989 -- National Gallery of Art director J. Carter Brown announced today that the National Gallery will establish an annual summer institute to better prepare elementary and secondary level teachers to teach art and the humanities. A pilot program will be held this summer for the institute, which will commence in the summer of 1990. The National Gallery's founding partner in this endeavor is Binney & Smith Inc. The project emanates from discussions with representatives of the National Art Education Association (NAEA).

Citing recent studies published by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts indicating that American students need to improve visual literacy, especially when compared to students in other countries, Brown said, "The National Gallery looks forward to helping professional educators prepare to relate our common heritage of the visual arts to other subjects. My own view is that the most important single element on which to focus is the teaching of teachers, which is the purpose of the summer institute." Brown served on the advisory committee of the National Endowment for the Arts study, "Toward Civilization," released last July.

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National Gallery deputy director Roger Mandle added, "Through the institute program, our goal is to prepare teachers to use a broad-based interdisciplinary approach in teaching the visual arts." At the Toledo Museum of Art, where he was director before joining the National Gallery last autumn, Mandle presided over the affiliation of the museum's art education department with the University of Toledo, the only such affiliation in the United States.

Richard S. Gurin, chief executive officer at Binney & Smith said, "Binney & Smith, the makers of Crayola and Liquitex brand art materials, is a company dedicated to serving the needs of the art education community by the very nature of its product line. A dimension of the institute program will be studio experiences for teachers in working with various media. This type of private sector initiative we are supporting at the National Gallery, aimed at teacher training, sets a precedent for other companies as a positive way to enhance the quality of education in this country."

In January of 1988, representatives of the NAEA met with Gallery officials to outline priorities and prototypes for service to the field. In the following summer, representatives of the NAEA, along with other leading educators from all parts of the United States, met at the National Gallery to discuss the state of visual arts education nationally. Their recommendations were twofold -- to initiate more teacher training programs that provide information about art and its cultural context and to expand existing resources for arts education. The National Gallery pilot teacher institute on American art, offered in three sessions this summer for graduate credit, has been developed as a result of these plans.

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The summer teacher institute will build on the success of the one-day courses throughout the school year for teachers offered by the National Gallery's Department of Public Programs and the work of the Gallery's Department of Extension Programs.

The National Gallery's Department of Extension Programs serves a large national audience through production and distribution of instructional resources. Extension Programs are available for only the cost of return postage. In 1988 Extension Programs were used in some 4,000 communities in all 50 states.

For information about the National Gallery of Art's Extension Programs, or to order the free catalogue of materials available, call (202) 842-6273. For information about the summer teacher institute and courses during the 1989-90 school year, contact Julie Springer at (202) 842-6249.