

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

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NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART APPOINTS ASSISTANT CURATOR

TO DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN ART

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 12, 1989 -- Nancy Anderson has been appointed assistant curator of American art by the National Gallery of Art. Anderson joined the Gallery in 1984 as guest scholar to research and write a systematic catalogue of 351 paintings by the nineteenth-century American artist George Catlin, which were donated by Paul Mellon, honorary trustee of the Gallery, in 1965.

Before coming to the Gallery, Anderson was a fellow at the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, where she also assisted the curator of American art with exhibition planning and research. She formerly taught art history at the University of Delaware, Newark, and worked as a research assistant at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas. In 1985 she received her doctorate from the University of Delaware; the title of her dissertation was "Albert Bierstadt: The Path to California, 1830-1874." She has lectured on Bierstadt throughout the United States and has written about him and other early American artists in such publications as the American Art Journal and in major catalogues.

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anderson . . . page two

"Nancy Anderson is an important addition to our department of American art which, in the last five years, has generated one of the most active and ambitious exhibition programs in the United States," said J. Carter Brown, director, National Gallery of Art.

In recent years, the department of American art under the leadership of head curator Nicolai Cikovsky, Jr., a distinguished scholar of American art, has organized a series of focused monographic exhibitions on the work of three masters of American impressionism: William Merritt Chase (1987), Childe Hassam (1988), and John Twachtman: Connecticut Landscapes (1989). The department has also organized major exhibitions on American furniture (1986-87), folk art from the Shelburne Museum (1987-88), Fitz Hugh Lane (1988), and Frederic Edwin Church (1989-1990). In addition, the department has co-organized with various institutions an exhibition on Raphaele Peale, the current American Paintings from the Manoogian Collection, and the upcoming George Caleb Bingham (1990).

The National Gallery's collection of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American paintings, one of the largest such collections in the nation, has expanded during the last decade. Significant acquisitions include the 1981 donation by Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch of more than eighty American naive paintings and graphics; the 1983 donation by John Hay Whitney of George Bellows' painting, Club Night, Thomas Eakins' painting, Baby at Play, and James A. McNeill Whistler's painting, Wapping on Thames; the 1985 purchase of Rembrandt Peale's painting, Rubens Peale with a Geranium; the 1986 gift by Paul Mellon of several paintings by Winslow Homer and Thomas Eakins; and the 1987 donation by Mr. and Mrs. John Marin, Jr., which included a major John Marin painting, Grey Sea, and the creation of a John Marin archive at the Gallery.