

National Gallery of Art News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 6, 1991

CONTACT: Ruth Kaplan
Tina Coplan
(202) 842-6353

NATIONAL GALLERY ANNOUNCES SEVEN GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Washington, D.C. -- The National Gallery has announced seven grants received from private foundations to further the public's understanding of art. These gifts, totaling \$798,500, support three new priorities for educational programming in the 1990s -- art and technology, new publications, and teacher training.

Among the grants received, The Annenberg Foundation has donated funds for educational programs using advanced computer technology. The Vira I. Heinz Endowment and Knight Foundation have contributed grants toward self-guiding information on the Gallery's collections for children and adults. Teacher enrichment program support has come from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Bauman Foundation, and an anonymous foundation donor.

"In this 50th anniversary year, the Gallery is increasing its commitment to heighten public awareness of the visual arts. New programs and materials are designed to enhance visitors' experience of the collections and to expand opportunities beyond the Gallery's walls to learn about art," said J. Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery of Art. "We are grateful for the generous foundation support that confirms the importance of these educational initiatives."

-more-

foundation support . . . page two

These new grants will enhance the Gallery's ability to serve five to seven million visitors each year and another ninety million people who use materials circulated on a free-loan basis through the Gallery's extension programs.

Funding from The Annenberg Foundation of St. Davids, Pennsylvania, supports development of a high-quality videodisc containing the Gallery's collection of American painting and sculpture, plus a large selection of drawings, watercolors, and graphics. A valuable teaching tool, the twelve-inch videodisc includes more than 10,000 images captured by advanced digital technology. Users will be able to search for over 2,600 works of art in the collection in any order, compare images, and examine works in detail. When the project is completed, a total of 2,500 videodiscs will be given by the Gallery on behalf of The Annenberg Foundation to educational institutions in fifty states and the District of Columbia, in honor of the Gallery's 50th anniversary.

As a lively teaching aid to involve young visitors in the Gallery's collections, a series of children's books and family guides will be created with funds from the Vira I. Heinz Endowment of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The illustrated children's books will explore creative ways to view works of art and projects to do at home.

-more-

foundation support . . . page three

To improve self-guiding information for the public, Knight Foundation of Miami, Florida, has provided support for twenty-one new illustrated, reusable leaflets, which describe specific works on display. Printed in Japanese, French, Spanish, Italian, and German, as well as in English, the ten-inch by sixteen-inch, laminated boards have been installed to date in three West Building galleries.

Addressing growing national concerns about reduced art instruction in schools, four foundations have donated funds toward teacher enrichment programs. A gift from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation of Morristown, New Jersey, will support the first National Conference on Teacher Programs. More than one-hundred museum and university art education specialists will meet in Washington to discuss the creation of local teacher enrichment programs. In addition, the Gallery will create a national directory of institutions with teacher enrichment programs. The Bauman Foundation in Washington, D.C., has provided funds to conduct a national survey of these programs in museums.

-more-

foundation support . . . page four

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation of New York gave a grant to the Teacher Institute, the Gallery's week-long, summer program including lectures, gallery tours, curriculum discussions, and visits to other museums. As part of the 50th anniversary celebration, the grant provided scholarships for two outstanding educators in each state to attend the 1991 Institute, focusing on European Renaissance art and history. An anonymous foundation has provided support for a follow-up teacher resource packet to contain slides, reproductions, and student handouts for classroom use.

Many of these new educational publications will become available for national distribution to schools, other museums, and community organizations through the Gallery's extension programs. For more information about the extension programs, call (202) 842-6273, or write to:

Department of Education Resources
Extension Programs Section
National Gallery of Art
Washington, D.C. 20565.

#