



Circa 1492

ART IN THE AGE OF EXPLORATION

National Gallery of Art, Washington
October 12, 1991–January 12, 1992

4th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20565
(202) 842-6353

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART TO PRESENT VARIETY
OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR "CIRCA 1492"

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The National Gallery of Art will present a variety of educational programs in conjunction with Circa 1492: Art in the Age of Exploration, which will be open to the public October 12, 1991 through January 12, 1992. The exhibition consists of approximately 600 objects that represent the outstanding artistic achievements of major civilizations in Europe and Africa, Asia, and the Americas, at the dawning of the modern age. Circa 1492 is the most wide-ranging exhibition in the Gallery's fifty-year history.

The exhibition is made possible by a global consortium of corporations who are equal partners. They are Ameritech; The Nomura Securities Co., Ltd./The Mitsui Taiyo Kobe Bank, Ltd.; and the Republic National Bank of New York. The Gallery is also grateful for additional support provided by The Rockefeller Foundation and Banco Exterior de España (Grupo CBE).

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"We want to take full advantage of the golden opportunity Circa 1492 presents to enhance public understanding of the breadth and depth of artistic accomplishments during this pivotal period in world history," said J. Carter Brown, director, National Gallery of Art. The exhibition will be open three additional hours on Friday evenings until 8:00 p.m.

Public Symposium

"Art in the Age of Exploration," a two-day symposium featuring fourteen eminent scholars, will begin with an introduction to the exhibition by Jay A. Levenson, managing curator of Circa 1492. The program will also include half-hour lectures on art and architecture around the globe in relation to themes such as the function of art in society, visualizing the invisible world, representing the natural world, charting time and space, structuring the social world, colonizers and colonized, and changing perspectives on 1492. Speakers include James Ackerman and Simon Schama from Harvard University; Yoshiaki Shimizu and Rolena Adorno from Princeton University; and Suzanne Blier from Columbia University. (See enclosure for complete program of speakers and topics.) The symposium will take place in the East Building auditorium, from 10:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 30, and from 11:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 1. For more information, call (202) 842-6690.

Sunday Lectures

Four Sunday lectures with slide presentations devoted to different aspects of the exhibition will be held at 4:00 p.m. in the East Building auditorium. Jay A. Levenson, managing curator of Circa 1492, will explore the history and art of the period on October 13. The December 1st lecture, "They All Laughed at Christopher Columbus" (taken from the song by George and Ira Gershwin), will be delivered by Simon Schama of Harvard University as part of the two-day public symposium. On January 12, art historian Janice Shell of Milan will deliver her lecture on "Cecilia Gallerani: Leonardo's Lady with the Ermine."

A Survey of Art in the Age of Exploration

A series of ten Tuesday lunchtime lectures by distinguished art historians will review the visual arts around the year 1492 in Europe, Africa, the Americas, and Asia. The lectures will take place at 12:00 noon beginning October 15, and on consecutive Tuesdays through December 17, with the exception of December 3, and on January 7, in the East Building auditorium. (See enclosure for program of speakers and topics.)

Slide Orientations/Question and Answer Sessions

Twenty-minute slide orientations of the exhibition, followed by discussions with staff lecturers, will be held daily in the East Building. For times and locations, inquire at the information desk or call (202) 842-6690.

Slide Overviews

Beginning October 18, forty-five minute slide overviews of the exhibition will be given by staff lecturers Wednesdays and Fridays at 11:00 a.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. in the East Building auditorium. A limited number of slide introductions to the exhibition, which last approximately one hour, is available by appointment for adult groups of ten or more; call (202) 842-6247.

Exhibition Brochures and Catalogue

Brochures describing the highlights of the exhibition in English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish, and a large print English version, will be available free of charge at the entrance to the exhibition. The foreign language and large-print brochures were made possible by The Circle of the National Gallery of Art. Self-guided tour brochures for families with children ages six through twelve will also be available.

A comprehensive fully illustrated exhibition catalogue, prepared by 50 scholars, will be co-published by the National Gallery of Art and Yale University Press. The 672-page book will be on sale in the Gallery Bookstore for \$45.00. For purchase information, call (202) 842-6466. For mail orders, call (301) 322-5900.

Videotapes

Masters of Illusion, a new 30-minute cinematic exploration of the discovery of perspective and concepts of pictorial space during the Renaissance, was produced for the National Gallery of Art by award-winning filmmaker Rick Harper. James Burke, Great Britain's foremost commentator on science and technology, is the on-camera host. Masters of Illusion is made possible by Canon U.S.A., Inc. and Canon, Inc.

Videocassettes of Masters of Illusion will be available for purchase for \$29.95 from the Gallery Bookstore. For ordering or purchase information, call (301) 322-5900. The English version of the videocassette will be due in the Gallery Bookstore by October 15 and the Japanese version by early December. Chinese, French, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish versions will follow.

Videocassettes of Masters of Illusion and Leonardo: To Know How to See will also be available on a loan basis through the Gallery's extension programs, which provide films, videotapes, and audiovisual material free of charge to schools, colleges, universities, libraries, and other civic and cultural organizations throughout the country. Leonardo: To Know How to See, made possible by a grant from IBM, follows Leonardo's career from his boyhood in Vinci through his major accomplishments as the premier artist and innovator of the Italian Renaissance.

Videocassettes for loan can be ordered from:

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

Recorded Tours

A recorded tour, narrated by National Gallery of Art director J. Carter Brown, will be available at the entrance to the exhibition for \$3.50, and \$3.00 for senior citizens, students, and groups of ten or more. A second tour, for children ages six through twelve, will be available for \$2.50 and at a special rate of \$2.00 per child for school groups. To reserve recorded tours for groups, call (202) 842-6592.

Teacher and School Programs

Special Appointment Tours - A limited number of tours of the exhibition will be available weekdays for school groups. For appointments call the education division at (202) 842-6249.

Teaching Packets - Teaching packets will be loaned free of charge to teachers preparing students for tours of the exhibition. The packet will include color reproductions, slides, an introductory text, and suggestions for classroom activities. The packet may be ordered when reserving a tour through the education division at (202) 842-6249. After the exhibition closes on January 12, 1992, the packet will be available on a free-loan basis by writing:

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

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Evening for Educators - A special program for educators, including a slide presentation and a private viewing of the exhibition, will be held on Wednesday, November 6, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. This program is offered in cooperation with The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the trustees of the National Gallery of Art. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call (202) 842-6796.

Documentary Film Series

Masters of Illusion (see "Videotapes") will be shown in the East Building auditorium at 1:30 p.m. daily and at other times throughout the duration of the exhibition. Other films to be shown in the East Building auditorium, Wednesday through Friday at 12:30 p.m., include: Leonardo: To Know How to See (week of November 4), Tradesmen and Treasures (week of November 11), Botticelli: A Second Spring (week of November 18), and Martin Chambi and the Heirs of the Incas (week of November 25). For more information, call (202) 842-6690.

Concerts

Two of the Gallery's Sunday concerts during the current season will be performed in honor of Circa 1492: Art in the Age of Exploration. On October 13, the National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble will perform with the music ensemble Hesperus a concert of early music from Spain and the Americas. On November 10, the Gallery will present the Washington debut recital of Portuguese baritone Jorge Chaminé, following his New York debut at Carnegie Hall. He will perform a recital of Iberian songs with pianist Marie Françoise Bucquet at the Gallery.

Concerts take place at 7:00 p.m. every Sunday evening October through June in the West Garden Court of the West Building. Free passes are required and may be picked up in the West Building Information Room beginning at 4:00 p.m. on the day of the concert. There is a limit of two passes per person. People holding concert passes will be allowed to claim seats in the West Garden Court on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning at 6:00 p.m. For recorded information on the concerts and passes, call (202) 842-6941.

Extended Friday Hours

The National Gallery of Art is open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and on Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Beginning October 18, Circa 1492 will be open an additional three hours until 8:00 p.m. on Friday evening for the duration of the exhibition.

Pass System

Advance passes will be available free of charge beginning September 30 at the Gallery's East Building. Passes can also be obtained at all Ticketmaster locations and Hecht Co. Stores for a service charge of \$2.00 per pass, and through Ticketmaster PhoneCharge for a \$3.00 service fee per pass and a \$1.00 handling fee per order by calling one of the following numbers:

Washington, DC	(202) 432-0200
Baltimore, MD	(301) 481-6000
Nationwide toll-free	1-800-448-9009

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A limited number of same-day passes will be available free of charge in the Gallery's East Building beginning October 12. They will be issued each day thereafter on a first-come, first-served basis during the Gallery hours. For more information on passes, call (202) 842-6684.

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- enclosures: 1) Program of lectures for two-day public symposium.
- 2) Program of lectures for ten-part survey course.

Circa 1492: Art in the Age of Exploration

A SURVEY OF VISUAL ARTS

A series of ten lectures by distinguished art historians will review the visual arts around the year 1492 in different cultures: Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia. Tuesdays at 12:00 noon, East Building auditorium.

- October 15 "Ships and Seamen of the Explorations"
William Donovan
Assistant Professor of History, Loyola College, Baltimore
- October 22 "Mediterranean Europe, Circa 1492"
Jay A. Levenson
Managing Curator, Circa 1492: Art in the Age of Exploration
- October 29 "Art and Architecture of India, Circa 1492"
Joseph M. Dye III
Curator of Asiatic Art, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond
- November 5 "African Art in the European Age of Exploration"
Ekpo Eyo
Professor of African Art, University of Maryland, College Park
- November 12 "Sultans and Sailors: Islamic Empires in the Age of Exploration"
Priscilla Soucek
Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Islamic Art Institute of Fine Arts,
New York University
- November 19 "Cathay Imagined and Perceived"
Thomas Lawton
Senior Research Scholar, The Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian
Institution
- November 26 "Japan in the Age of Ashikaga Yoshimasa (1436-1490): A Shogun's
Legacy in the Arts"
Ann Yonemura
Associate Curator of Japanese Art, The Freer Gallery of Art and
the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution
- December 10 "The Art of Royal Ritual: Religious and Secular Life in the
Inka Empire"
Elizabeth Benson
Research Associate, Institute of Andean Studies, Berkeley
- December 17 "The People of the Sun: Aztec Art and Culture"
Elizabeth Boone
Director of Pre-Columbian Studies, Dumbarton Oaks
- January 7 "The First Americans: A Survey of American Indian Cultures
Before 1492"
J. Daniel Rogers
Associate Curator of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural
History, Smithsonian Institution

Circa 1492: Art in the Age of Exploration

PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM

Art in the Age of Exploration, a two-day public symposium featuring fourteen eminent scholars, will take place during the weekend following Thanksgiving. Open to the public, seating on a first-come, first-served basis, in the East Building auditorium.

Saturday, November 30, 1991

Morning sessions, 10:15 a.m.-12:00 noon

Introduction, Jay A. Levenson, managing curator of the exhibition

The Function of Art in Society

"The Place of Art in Prehispanic Mesoamerica"

Mary Miller, Department of the History of Art, Yale University

"The Social Role of the Artist in China"

Frederick W. Mote, Professor Emeritus, Department of East Asian Studies, Princeton University

Afternoon sessions, 1:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

Visualizing the Invisible World

"The Arts in Spain Under Ferdinand and Isabella"

Jonathan Brown, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University

"In Search of a Creation Myth at the Aztec Temple of Tlaloc"

Richard Townsend, Department of Africa, Oceania and the Americas, Art Institute of Chicago

"The American South Before Columbus"

James Brown, Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University

Representing the Natural World

"Landscape Painting in East Asia"

Yoshiaki Shimizu, Department of Art and Archaeology, Princeton University

"The Study and Representation of Nature and the World in Renaissance Europe"

Thomas Kaufmann, Department of Art and Archaeology, Princeton University

Sunday, December 1, 1991

Morning sessions, 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Charting Time and Space

"The History of Mesoamerican Timekeeping"

Anthony Aveni, Departments of Astronomy and Anthropology, Colgate University

"Coordinating the World: Maps in the Medieval-Renaissance Transition"

David Woodward, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Structuring the Social World

"Renaissance Cities: Ideal and Real"

James Ackerman, Department of Fine Arts, Harvard University

"Symbols and Empire: The Art of the Inka"

Craig Morris, Department of Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History

Afternoon sessions, 2:45 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Colonizers and Colonized

"Mythologizing the Other: Cross-Cultural Images in the Early Modern Period"

Rolena Adorno, Department of Romance Languages, Princeton University

"Europe and Africa: Encountering Otherness in Art"

Suzanne Blier, Department of Art and Archaeology, Columbia University

Conclusion-Synthesis

4:00 p.m. (Sunday lecture)

"They All Laughed at Christopher Columbus"

Simon Schama, Mellon Professor of Social Science, Harvard University