

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 8, 1992

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EDGAR PETERS BOWRON NAMED SENIOR CURATOR OF PAINTINGS
AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Edgar Peters Bowron has been named senior curator of paintings at the National Gallery of Art by Earl A. Powell III, director of the National Gallery. Bowron replaces Charles Moffett, who left the Gallery last summer to become the director of the Phillips Collection in Washington.

"Peter Bowron's vast knowledge of art history and his distinguished leadership in the museum field make him a perfect fit for the position of senior curator of paintings. He is a widely published scholar who is very familiar with the Gallery, its collection, and its staff," said Powell.

Bowron has been at the National Gallery of Art since April 1991 as Andrew W. Mellon Senior Consultative Curator. In this capacity he has made significant contributions to the Gallery's systematic catalogue in the area of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Italian paintings. He has also been involved in the recent reinstallation of the Gallery's permanent collection.

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From 1985 to 1990, Bowron was Elizabeth and John Moors Cabot Director of the Harvard University Art Museums, which include the Fogg Art Museum, the Busch-Reisinger Museum, and the Arthur M. Sackler Museum, and professor of fine arts. While at Harvard he played a major role in the creation of the new Busch-Reisinger Museum, which opened in 1991, was responsible for the endowment of several new positions, and revitalized the museums' exhibition program. Before that he spent four years as director of the North Carolina Museum of Art.

Bowron began his career as a Ford Foundation Fellow in the department of drawings at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and has held positions at the Nelson Gallery-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Missouri, the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

Bowron received his Ph.D. and M.A. in the history of art at the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University. He also attended Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, where he received his B.A. in English literature.

Bowron is widely published in scholarly and museum publications, particularly on Italian baroque and rococo painting. His publications include the Fogg Art Museum's catalogue of European paintings before 1900, and the standard monograph on the Italian painter Pompeo Batoni (1798-1787). Among the exhibitions he has organized are The Maurice Wertheim Collection and Other Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Paintings and Drawings from

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the Fogg Art Museum, shown in Tokyo and Yamaguchi, 1990; Modern Art from the Collection of Joseph and Emily Pulitzer: 50 Years of Connoisseurship, Fogg Art Museum, 1988; A Prosperous Past: The Sumptuous Still Life in the Netherlands, Fogg Art Museum, also the Kimbell Art Museum in Forth Worth and the Stedelijk Museum Het Prinsenhof in Delft, the Netherlands, 1988; and Pompeo Batoni and his British Patrons, The Iveagh Bequest, Kenwood, England, 1982.

Bowron has been a member of the board of trustees of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 1988-1991, the Association of Art Museum Directors, 1987-1991, and the Master Drawings Association since 1987. He has been a frequent reviewer and panelist for the National Endowments for the Humanities and the Arts, as well as the Institute of Museum Services, and is listed in Who's Who in America.

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