

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 10, 1992

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HOLIDAY EVENTS SCHEDULED AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY

Washington, D.C. -- The National Gallery of Art will celebrate the holiday season with a range of festive activities.

Masterpieces depicting seasonal themes from the Gallery's collection will be the focus of special gallery talks and self-guided walking tours for adults and children. The Christmas Season & Winter Festivities in Art, a self-guided tour booklet, highlights such beloved paintings as The Adoration of the Magi (1445) by Fra Angelico and Fra Filippo Lippi and The Skater (1782) by Gilbert Stuart. Holiday images are also explored in a children's activity tour booklet. Both publications are free and will be available in early December at the West Building art information room near the Mall entrance on Madison Drive.

Special gallery talks with staff lecturers will include "The Christmas Story in Art" on December 12, 13, 16, and 22 at noon, and "The Virgin and Child in Sienese Art" on December 10 and 17 at 2:30. "Peasants Celebrating Twelfth Night," a discussion of the seventeenth-century painting by Flemish artist David Teniers II, will be held December 29 and 30 at 1:00 p.m. All talks meet in the West Building Rotunda.

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holiday events . . . page two

Sounds of the season will ring through the West Building as the public is invited to participate in holiday caroling in the Rotunda on Saturday and Sunday, December 12 and 13, at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The Maryland Camerata will join conductor Samuel Gordon in an evening concert of traditional Christmas choral music, Sunday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. Seating on a first-come, first-served basis begins at 6:00 p.m. in the West Building, West Garden Court. For more information about holiday caroling and the concert, call (202) 842-6941.

During the month of December, special refreshments-- including mulled cider, hot cocoa, and assorted holiday pastries --will be available for purchase in the Terrace and Garden Cafés, and the Cascade Espresso Bar.

The Gallery's holiday shop, located on the ground floor of the West Building, is now open and stocked with a variety of seasonal cards, calendars, and books. Among the selection of seasonal and Christmas cards illustrating Gallery paintings is Giovanni Bellini's Madonna and Child with Saints (c. 1490), selected by the United States Postal Service as the 1992 traditional Christmas stamp. (The painting hangs in Gallery 15 of the West Building).

The National Gallery will extend its hours until 7:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving weekend, November 27 and 28, and on Saturday evenings, December 26 and January 2. All restaurants will remain open until 6:30 p.m. Regular hours are 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on Sundays.

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