

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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WORLD TOUR OF GREAT FRENCH PAINTINGS

FROM THE BARNES FOUNDATION

TO PREMIERE AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, MAY 2, 1993

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- For the first time, eighty of the finest French impressionist, post-impressionist, and early modern paintings from the extraordinary collection assembled by Dr. Albert C. Barnes (1872-1951) will be exhibited in an international tour, beginning at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, May 2 - August 15, 1993. The exhibition will also travel to the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, September 6, 1993 - January 2, 1994; the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo, January 21 - April 3, 1994; and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, dates to be determined.

Great French Paintings from The Barnes Foundation at the National Gallery of Art is supported by a grant from GTE Corporation. The National Gallery of Art and The Barnes Foundation are exhibition co-organizers.

"We are extremely grateful to The Barnes Foundation for making this remarkable exhibition possible," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art.

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"These masterpieces of modern French painting form a vast and exhilarating visual banquet, and reveal Dr. Barnes as a bold and original collector of modern art."

The exhibition includes highlights from The Barnes Foundation's strong holdings of Cézanne, Matisse, and Renoir, as well as paintings by Manet, Monet, van Gogh, Gauguin, Rousseau, Seurat, Toulouse-Lautrec, Chaim Soutine, Roger de la Fresnaye, Braque, and Picasso.

According to Richard H. Glanton, president of The Barnes Foundation, "This exhibition was undertaken by the Board of Trustees to secure the funds required to preserve Dr. Barnes' magnificent collection for future generations. The tour also advances Dr. Barnes' lifelong commitment to education and the appreciation of fine arts."

"GTE is honored to join the National Gallery in presenting this unprecedented exhibition of Dr. Barnes' magnificent collection. We are delighted that GTE could be a part of this landmark undertaking, which underscores our longstanding commitment to helping improve our society by supporting the arts and education. We at GTE look forward with great anticipation to the opening of this spectacular show next May," said Charles R. Lee, chairman and chief executive officer of GTE Corporation. This is the eighth exhibition to be sponsored by GTE at the National Gallery of Art.

The exhibition and its tour will take place during the period when the Foundation is scheduled to upgrade the environmental and security systems, which are essential to the preservation of some 2,500 works of art. The historic building that houses the collection was designed by the noted architect Paul Cret and opened in

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1925.

The ruling of Judge Louis Stefan of the Orphans' Court of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, handed down on July 22, 1992, gives permission to The Barnes Foundation to stage an international exhibition that will help achieve its founder's vision to promote "the advancement of education and the appreciation of the fine arts" and pay for critically needed improvements at the sixty-seven-year-old gallery housing the Barnes collection.

Among the paintings to be included in the exhibition are Renoir's grand-scale, multi-figured portrait The Artist's Family (1896); the largest and most complex version of Cézanne's Cardplayers (1890-1892); Seurat's pointillist masterpiece Models (Poseuses) (1886-1888); Acrobat and Young Harlequin (1905), a touching evocation of circus performers from Picasso's Rose Period; and Matisse's landmark fauve painting, Bonheur de vivre (The Joy of Life) (1905-1906), an exuberant and sensual depiction of an earthly paradise.

Another important feature of the exhibition is Matisse's tripartite mural The Dance (1932-1933). Measuring 407 1/4 inches in width and 198 1/8 inches in height, the painting was commissioned by Dr. Barnes specifically to fit into the lunettes above the French windows in the main hall of The Barnes Foundation. While in the United States to serve on the jury of the Carnegie International Exhibition in 1930, Matisse visited the gallery of the Foundation, which held the world's largest collection of his paintings. Matisse was surprised by Dr. Barnes, who personally greeted him at the

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door and later made the request for the mural.

Born in 1872 and raised in Philadelphia, Dr. Barnes financed his tuition for medical school by playing semi-professional baseball and boxing. He received an M.D. at the age of 21 and a few years later entered the pharmaceutical business. Financial success enabled him to amass one of the world's greatest private art collections. At first he focused his efforts on European and American impressionist, and later on post-impressionist and early modern works. He also collected African tribal sculpture, Greek and Egyptian antiquities, metalwork, Native American art, and watercolors and drawings, personally creating 92 wall ensembles, which are still intact today and will remain in place after the renovation.

In 1922, Dr. Barnes established the Foundation, which was chartered as an educational institution. He also oversaw the building of a house for the Foundation and for his vast collection of more than 2,500 works of art in Merion Station, a Philadelphia suburb. In 1950 he amended the bylaws to designate that the board of trustees of Lincoln University, a local, historically black college, would nominate four of the five trustees of The Barnes Foundation. Dr. Barnes died in an auto accident in 1951.

In addition to co-organizing the exhibition, the National Gallery has also advised The Barnes Foundation on arrangements for the world tour and on an exhibition-related book to be published by Alfred A. Knopf Incorporated. The 338-page book will include 323 illustrations including 135 in full color, as well as essays and entries by

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twelve eminent American and French art historians and curators. The hardcover book will be available at the National Gallery of Art bookstore and at bookstores throughout the nation at \$65.00. The softcover version will be available only through the National Gallery of Art bookstore at \$25.00.

Other exhibitions sponsored by GTE at the National Gallery were: Post-Impressionism: Cross-Currents in European and American Painting, 1880-1906 (1980); Mauritshuis: Dutch Painting of the Golden Age from the Royal Picture Gallery, The Hague (1982); Art of Aztec Mexico: Treasures of Tenochtitlan (1983-1984); Henri Matisse: The Early Years in Nice 1916-1930 (1986-1987); Paintings by Fitz Hugh Lane (1988); Masterpieces of Impressionism and Post-Impressionism: The Annenberg Collection (1980); Art for the Nation: Gifts in Honor of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the National Gallery of Art (1991).

The National Gallery, located at Fourth Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., is open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery will extend its hours until 7:00 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings for the entire run of the exhibition, May 2 through August 15, 1993. Advance and same-day passes, which will be available free of charge in the spring, will be required for admission to the exhibition. For more information about passes or the exhibition, call (202) 842-6713.

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National Gallery of Art

Washington, D.C.

The Barnes Foundation

Backgrounder

The Barnes Foundation, established in 1922 to "promote the advancement of education and the appreciation of the fine arts," houses one of the finest private collections of French modern and post-impressionist paintings in the world. To support his theories in aesthetics, Dr. Barnes vigorously collected works by Renoir, Cézanne, and Matisse, providing a depth of work by these artists not available anywhere else in the world. Among approximately 800 oil paintings, the gallery also exhibits works by Manet, Monet, van Gogh, de Chirico, Soutine, Modigliani, Braque, Picasso, as well as old masters.

More than 2,500 objects, including tapestries, ceramics, sculpture, ironwork, and American furniture, are displayed as part of the museum's installations to express unity, variety, texture, color, and form, as well as theories developed by Dr. Barnes about transferred values and the use of artistic traditions.

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Dr. Barnes, a non-practicing physician, was born and raised in the Kensington section of Philadelphia. He amassed his fortune through the manufacturing and marketing of pharmaceutical products. His intense interest in modern art and education began to focus on the working class when he insisted his employees attend classes at his factory. He described the course he developed as follows:

[The] course comprises an objective study of the great traditions of paintings, from the Byzantines to the work of the leading contemporaries, thus showing the continuity of the traditions and how the great artists of each period utilized the contributions of their predecessors as points of departure for their own creative work.

Just as Dr. Barnes was a pioneer in collecting, he was also a pioneer in educational theory. Barnes worked to develop these theories throughout his life and collaborated with like-minded thinkers, including John Dewey, the first director of education at the Foundation. Barnes' theories of objective methodology of art appreciation continue to be taught at The Barnes Foundation today.

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National Gallery of Art

Washington, D.C.

ALBERT COOMBS BARNES FACT SHEET

- 1872 Born January 2, in Kensington, a Philadelphia neighborhood; his father was a butcher
- 1889 Attended Central High School in Philadelphia, a pre-eminent public secondary school; elected vice president of class
- 1892 Graduated from University of Pennsylvania medical school
- Worked in clinical medicine and experimental physiology at the University of Berlin
- 1900 Studied pharmacology at Ruprecht-Karls-Universität, Heidelberg
- 1902 Married Laura Leggett of Brooklyn, New York; no children
- 1902 Established Barnes and Hille, manufacturer of Argyrol, a silver nitrate compound used to fight infections
- 1907 Barnes bought out Hille's interest in the company
- 1908 Established A.C. Barnes Company and manufactured Argyrol with factories in Philadelphia, London, and Australia; Barnes mounted the first successful marketing effort of medical supplies to physicians and hospitals
- 1912 Began collecting French modern art
- 1922 Foundation chartered in Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to "promote the advancement of education and the appreciation of the fine arts"; transferred 635 of his personal paintings to the Foundation and an endowment of \$6 million
- 1923-24 Constructed 24-room Gallery and administration building, in which Mrs. Barnes and he lived; designed (in French Renaissance style) by architect Paul Cret, architect of Rodin Museum, Philadelphia, and several public buildings in Washington, DC

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Barnes commissioned Jacques Lipchitz in Paris to carve seven bas reliefs and a "garden vase" for the exterior of front and back of gallery and three sides of residence

Ceramic entrance of the Gallery was commissioned by Barnes from Enfield Pottery and Tile Works, copying the relief of a granary door carving from the Ivory Coast

- 1924-36 Developed, with Mrs. Barnes, the arboretum that once belonged to Captain Joseph Lapsley Wilson for use in art appreciation classes and horticulture, as well as animal husbandry, chicken and cattle raising, and beekeeping
- 1925 Foundation's gallery opening, March 19
- 1929 Sold A.C. Barnes Company
- 1930 Henri Matisse visits Barnes Foundation en route to Pittsburgh to judge Carnegie International exhibition; Foundation held the largest collection of paintings by Matisse
- 1931 Published his first book, The Art in Painting, still used today as the basis for the Foundation's art education courses
- Commissioned Matisse to paint The Dance mural for three lunettes in the main gallery
- 1933 Mural completed and installed by Matisse
- 1936 Mrs. Barnes established school of horticulture
- 1940 Bought Ker-Feal, a house in Chester County, constructed in 1775; Ker-Feal is Breton for "dog's house" in honor of his dog, Fidèle; added two wings and 14 rooms to display his colonial American decorative arts, and furniture collection
- 1939 Last trip to Paris
- 1946 Established relationship with Horace Bond, president of Lincoln University, Oxford, Pennsylvania

1950 Amended bylaws so that ultimately Lincoln University's Board of Trustees would nominate trustees of The Barnes Foundation

1951 Received Honorary Doctor of Science from Lincoln University; June 5

Died July 24; in an automobile accident

COLLECTION: More than 1,000 oil paintings, drawings, sketches and other works on paper, etc.; 250 pieces of sculpture, 1,100 pieces of metalwork, 120 pieces of furniture, 100 ceramic pieces, textiles, and jewelry.

Works by:

Pierre-Auguste Renoir -- 180

Paul Cézanne -- 69

Henri Matisse -- 60

Pablo Picasso -- 44

Chaim Soutine -- 21

Henri Rousseau -- 18

Amedeo Modigliani -- 14

Vincent van Gogh -- 7

Georges Seurat -- 6

Paul Gauguin -- 3

Toulouse-Lautrec -- 2

Claude Monet -- 4

Edouard Manet -- 4

Roger de la Fresnaye -- 1

1992 \$9.8 million endowment; approximately \$1.1 million annual operating expenses; 17 full-time employees

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