

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

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## PHILIP CONISBEE NAMED CURATOR OF FRENCH PAINTINGS

### AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, DC -- Philip Conisbee has been named as the National Gallery of Art's curator of French paintings by Earl A. Powell III, director of the National Gallery.

"Philip Conisbee brings to the National Gallery a wealth of knowledge of European art, in particular eighteenth- and nineteenth-century French painting," said Powell. "He has lectured and been widely published throughout the world and has demonstrated outstanding leadership and curatorial talents at two major museums in the United States."

In 1988 Conisbee became department head and curator of European painting and sculpture at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, where Powell served as director from 1980 to 1992. While at the Los Angeles museum, Conisbee supervised the reinstallation of the galleries of European art, played a key role in the

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acquisition of important works of art, wrote numerous departmental publications to expand knowledge of the European collection, and organized the Masterpiece in Focus series of exhibitions. The shows spotlighted major works of art from the collection, including "Jupiter and Danäe" by Hendrick Goltzius (1992), "The Raising of Lazarus" by Rembrandt (1991), and "Soap Bubbles" by Jean Siméon Chardin (1991). The latter traveled to the National Gallery of Art in 1991. He conceived and co-organized the exhibition Monet to Matisse: French Art in Southern California Collections (1991), to showcase important works of French impressionist, post-impressionist, and early modern art from local collections. He is also the principal co-organizer of forthcoming exhibitions at the Los Angeles museum, including The Golden Age of Danish Painting (1993) and Friedrich to Hodler: A Romantic Tradition--Treasures from the Oskar Reinhart Foundation, Winterthur (1993).

While curator of French painting at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, from 1986 to 1988, Conisbee organized the exhibition Masterpieces of French 19th-Century Painting from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, which traveled to Sapporo, Yokohama, and Kyoto in 1989.

In 1971, Conisbee was appointed Paul Mellon Lecturer in the History of British Art at the University of Leicester, after which he received tenure as an associate professor in the history of European art, 1974-1986. During this period he also served as



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area advisor for French and Italian art for the Macmillan Dictionary of Art, taught annual seminar and lecture courses on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century French art at Cambridge University, and chaired and/or organized the 1977, 1980, and 1983 sessions of the annual conference of the Association of Art Historians. From 1969 to 1971, Conisbee was a regular part-time lecturer at the University of Reading and also lectured at Birkbeck College, University of London, and Bath Academy of Art.

Among Conisbee's honors are a visiting fellowship at the Yale Center for British Art, Yale University (October-November 1985), a Leverhulme Trust Faculty Fellowship in European Studies, (April-September 1978), and election in 1977 to the Société de l'Histoire de l'Art Français.

Over the last two decades Conisbee has contributed more than sixty reviews, principally to The Burlington Magazine, The Times Literary Supplement, The Times, Apollo, Art History, Studio International, and Art in America. Among his publications are numerous exhibition catalogues and books on European art and artists, including Painting in Eighteenth-Century France (Oxford, 1981), and Chardin (Oxford, 1986). He is currently working on the National Gallery's systematic catalogue volume on French seventeenth- and eighteenth-century paintings, due to be completed in 1993.

Conisbee received a First Class B.A. with honors in the history of European art in 1968 from the Courtauld Institute of



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Art, University of London. He continued as a full-time Ph.D. student at the Courtauld Institute through 1971 and published his dissertation, Joseph Vernet, in 1976.

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