

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RENOWNED AMERICAN ARTIST JAMES MCNEILL WHISTLER

CELEBRATED IN FOUR EXHIBITIONS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 23, 1995 -- The art and life of the renowned American expatriate artist James McNeill Whistler will be celebrated in four exhibitions in the nation's capital this summer. A major retrospective at the National Gallery of Art will be complemented by three important thematic exhibitions at the Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery, and the Freer Gallery of Art. They are:

James McNeill Whistler, National Gallery of Art, May 28 - August 20, 1995. This major retrospective--the most important gathering of art by Whistler since 1904-1905--presents 200 works, including the famous painting known as "Whistler's Mother." This exhibition is made possible by a generous grant from the NYNEX Foundation. Open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Call (202) 737-4215.

In Pursuit of the Butterfly: Portraits of James McNeill Whistler, National Portrait Gallery, April 7 - August 13, 1995. The development of Whistler's public image is revealed through 83 portraits of him from his student days in Paris to his last years in turn-of-the-century London. Open Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call (202) 357-2700.

Whistler & Japan, Freer Gallery of Art, May 14 - January 1, 1996. The influence of Japanese art on Whistler is examined through 31 of his works from the 1860s and 1870s. They are shown with 16 examples of his Japanese art, many of them acquired by Charles Freer after Whistler encouraged his interest in Asian art. Open Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call (202) 357-2700.

Prints by James McNeill Whistler and His Contemporaries, National Gallery of Art, June 18 - December 31, 1995. Some 140 works illustrate the printmaking achievements of Whistler and his European and American contemporaries, including Édouard Manet, Edgar Degas, and Mary Cassatt.

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whistler in washington 2-2-2

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Admission to all three museums is free of charge. Museums should be contacted individually for information regarding special activities, such as symposia, films, and concerts related to the exhibition.

The Freer Gallery houses the world's most comprehensive collection of works by Whistler, including Harmony in Blue and Gold: The Peacock Room, a decorated dining room of a London townhouse that is permanently installed in the museum. The Freer Gallery's exhibition Whistler & Japan was funded by a grant from the James Smithson Society.

The National Gallery of Art has an important collection of works by Whistler and the major exhibition on view there, James McNeill Whistler, is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

The National Portrait Gallery exhibition In Pursuit of the Butterfly: Portraits of James McNeill Whistler and its accompanying publication have been made possible in part by grants from The Clark Charitable Foundation and the Smithsonian Institution Special Exhibition Fund. In-kind support has been provided by British Airways; Capital Plastic Company, Inc.; Capitol Paint Center, Inc.; General Typographers, Inc.; Heritage Flag Co., Inc.; Normandy Carpet Care Co.; Schneidereith and Sons; and Turner Associates, Inc.

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