

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

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CELEBRATE THE 1995 HOLIDAY SEASON AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY

WITH FESTIVE MUSIC, GIFTS, TOURS, AND MORE

Washington, D.C. -- The nation's art gallery will be a center for holiday activities again this year, beginning with a glorious display of poinsettias and greenery in the West Building Rotunda and Garden Courts, and including:

MUSIC

The public is invited to participate in holiday caroling on December 9, 10, 16, and 17 beginning at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. in the Rotunda. The National Gallery concert series will present a Christmas concert on December 17 by the Washington Men's Camerata and a Gala Viennese New Year program by the National Gallery Orchestra on January 7. Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. in the West Building West Garden Court. Seating is first-come, first-served, beginning at 6:00 p.m.; for information, call (202) 842-6941.

GIFTS

The Gallery's Holiday Shop is stocked with seasonal cards, books, calendars, and recordings. Among the many new items this year are: two exquisite stained glass panels adapted from

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Giovanni de Domenico's The Angel of the Annunciation and The Virgin Annunciate (\$75 each); the Peaceable Kingdom Advent Calendar (\$9.95); two ornaments, one adapted from Johannes Hanias' Bow Embellished with Flowers in 24-karat gold electroplate (\$38), and the other from a weather vane in the likeness of the angel Gabriel (\$12.95), and the 1996 Color Me Calendar (\$8.95).

Visitors shopping for holiday gifts may also browse through the East and West Building bookstores' wide selection of items, including reproductions, books, videotapes, stationery, and games with art themes for adults and children. Two new books of note are The Artist's Table (\$28.00), a richly illustrated cookbook in which fourteen master chefs create menus inspired by paintings in the National Gallery, and the exhibition catalogue for Johannes Vermeer (\$19.95), which presents new insights into the ways in which the artist worked, as well as an assessment of his technical innovations and stylistic evolution.

MICRO GALLERY AND TOURS

Visitors can use the new Micro Gallery, the National Gallery's interactive, multimedia computer system, to design their own holiday tours in the Gallery. They can choose subjects such as winter, the nativity, and the magi to locate paintings in the Gallery, then get a print-out to direct them to the artwork. The Micro Gallery also contains its own holiday story: Samuel

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Kress displayed "The Adoration of the Shepherds" by Giorgione in the window of his flagship Fifth Avenue department store at Christmas. The painting was a seasonal attraction for shoppers until he gave it to the National Gallery.

In addition, holiday tours will be given by the Gallery's staff: "The Incarnation Cycle in Christian Art" on December 2, 3, and 8, and "Peasants Celebrating Twelfth Night" on January 2, 6, 7, and 10. These tours begin at noon in the West Building Rotunda.

FOOD

Throughout December, holiday refreshments -- including mulled cider and assorted holiday pastries -- will be served in the Terrace and Garden Cafés and Cascade Espresso Bar.

The National Gallery of Art is open every day of the year except December 25 and January 1. It is located between Third and Seventh Streets on Constitution Avenue N.W. Admission is free. Hours are Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. For additional information call (202) 737-4215, or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at (202) 842-6176. For information on visitor services call (202) 842-6690.

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