

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART TO EXTEND HOURS FOR "JOHANNES VERMEER"

TO 9:00 PM EVERY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 1-11, 1996

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- In order to enable as many people as possible to see Johannes Vermeer, the National Gallery of Art will extend the viewing hours to 9:00 PM every night, February 1-11, 1996. The exhibition shop will also remain open until 9:00 PM and the Garden Café will close at 6:30 PM Monday - Friday and at 7:30 PM on Sunday.

"We are delighted at the overwhelming response of the public to this magnificent exhibition," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art. "As the nation's art gallery, we want to make this rare exhibition of Vermeer's paintings available to greater numbers of people before it leaves the United States and goes on to its last destination in The Hague."

There are no more advance passes available. People may obtain same-day passes free of charge at the Gallery's West Building entrance at 6th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, beginning at 10:00 AM on weekdays and Saturdays, and 11:00 AM on Sundays. People are advised to obtain their timed passes in the morning, as the passes often run out by early afternoon. For

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additional pass information, please call (202) 842-6690 or 6691.

Through January 23, 215,806 visitors have seen Johannes Vermeer; an average of 4,231 people daily for the 51 days the exhibition has been open since November 12, 1995. This is the third time that the Gallery has extended hours for the exhibition, which was closed twice by federal shutdowns, reopened with private funds, and closed down again by a blizzard. The Gallery faces no more federal shutdowns and is fully funded through September 30, 1996, the end of the fiscal year.

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