

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

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Press Contact: (202) 842-6353
Information Officer, Deborah Ziska
Publicist, Ann Greer

MAJOR PAINTINGS BY JOHNS AND STELLA AND AVANT-GARDE THEATER PROGRAMS

ARE AMONG 214 RECENT GIFTS TO NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Washington, D.C. -- A noteworthy and extensive array of 214 works in several media have recently been donated to the National Gallery of Art through individual gifts. "These outstanding gifts augment our holdings in many areas. The National Gallery is grateful to the donors on whose generosity we rely to expand our collection," said Earl A. Powell III, director of the National Gallery of Art.

Among the gifts are two important paintings from the Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Collection, Perilous Night by Jasper Johns and La scienza della fiacca (The Science of Laziness) by Frank Stella, both of which will be in an exhibition of works from the Meyerhoff's collection at the National Gallery from March 31 to July 21, 1996. Perilous Night (1982) is perhaps Jasper Johns' most important work of the last fifteen years, in which he announced the new, expressionistic direction that his art would take. It is the Gallery's first painting by this preeminent artist of the twentieth century. Stella's La scienza della

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fiacca (The Science of Laziness) (1984) is an early example of the artist's Cones and Pillars series, in which he sought to create a narrative of abstract forms. It offers an example of his more recent approach, which is not represented in the collection.

In other gifts of paintings, the Stephen Hahn Family Collection added a partial and promised gift of two works by Jean Dubuffet, Ils tiennent conseil (They Hold Council), 1947, and Barbe des combats (Combat Beard), 1959, to the partial and promised gift of twenty-two works by the artist that the Hahn family had given previously. Both paintings are on view in the Dubuffet installation in the East Building. A partial and promised gift by Charles and Helen Schwab, Man in the Moon - Franz Pforr, 1963, is the first painting by Georg Baselitz to enter the collection and an important early work of the artist.

In works on paper, The Atlas Foundation has given one of the finest collections in the world of original art works used for late-nineteenth century avant-garde theater programs in Paris, with works by forty-eight artists. An exhibition is planned at the Gallery in 1998 for a selection of these programs. Collected over the past thirty years by Martin and Liane Atlas, the 111 original lithographs and other prints are by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Edouard Vuillard, Pierre Bonnard, Edward Burne-Jones, and Edvard Munch, among others. The gift also includes one of Bonnard's finest watercolors for a theater program and six

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scrapbooks containing material from productions by authors such as Oscar Wilde and Henrik Ibsen.

In other works on paper, a gift of an anonymous donor, A Glove (1880), is Max Klinger's most celebrated cycle. The complete set of ten etchings is the only known group of early impressions extensively annotated by the artist. Frank R. and Jeannette H. Eyerly gave six works, distinguished by two lithographic masterpieces, Paul Cézanne's 1897 The Bathers (Small Plate) and Henri Matisse's Seated Odalisque with Tuile Skirt of 1924. Mrs. John Alexander Pope gave Anemones (1937) by Emil Nolde, an enchanting watercolor depicting flowers from the artist's garden.

Works of art on paper are frequently shown in temporary exhibitions and are also available for viewing in the Gallery's print study rooms free of charge by appointment on weekdays. Call (202) 842-6380.

In addition to paintings and prints, gifts included sculpture, drawings, illustrated books, and photographs. Three photographs by Harry Callahan given by Susan MacGill, Eleanor, Highland Park (1942), Camera Movement on Flashlight (1946-47), and Ansley Park, Atlanta (1992), will be on view in the Gallery's Harry Callahan exhibition until May 13.

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