

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

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STELLAR LINEUP FROM HERBERT AND NANNETTE ROTHSCHILD

FAMILY COLLECTIONS OF MODERN ART

OPENS AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART ON SEPTEMBER 22, 1996

Washington, D.C. -- The first major exhibition since 1966 of works from the Herbert and Nannette Rothschild family collections will be on view at the National Gallery of Art, September 22, 1996 through January 26, 1997 in the East Building. Encounters with Modern Art: Works from the Rothschild Family Collections will reveal the discerning taste of the late Herbert and Nannette Rothschild, who acquired much of their art in the years following World War II. With the encouragement and advice of their daughter, noted abstract painter Judith Rothschild, they built an outstanding collection of early twentieth-century art.

Encounters with Modern Art was organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, in collaboration with The Judith Rothschild Foundation. The exhibition will include approximately 97 paintings, drawings, prints, and sculpture from major European schools--futurism, cubism, constructivism, and De Stijl among them. Juan Gris and

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Piet Mondrian will be shown in some depth, while Constantin Brancusi, Francis Picabia, and Natalia Goncharova will be represented by works of particular significance. There are also works by Jean Arp, Giacomo Balla, Robert Delaunay, Sonia Delaunay, Fernand Léger, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Diego Rivera, Kurt Schwitters, and Gino Severini, several of whom the Rothschilds met in Paris.

"This exhibition will reflect the Rothschilds' wide range of interests and their discriminating taste in modern art," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art. "We are pleased that the National Gallery will be the opening venue for this important group of works and delighted to continue our long association with the Rothschild family."

Also on view will be two major Italian futurist paintings that Herbert and Nannette Rothschild gave to the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Umberto Boccioni's The Laugh (1911), and Carlo Carrà's Jolts of a Cab (1911), as well as Mondrian's superb Tableau No. IV (c. 1921/25), which they gave to the National Gallery in 1971. Among other well-known works in the exhibition are Constantin Brancusi's The Muse (after 1918), Jacques Lipchitz's Bather (1917), and Patrick Henry Bruce's Painting (Still Life) (c. 1919).

Herbert Rothschild, the son of a cabinetmaker, was born in New York City in 1891 and became a leader in the furniture industry, with a particular interest in providing middle-class America with practical furniture of good design. Nannette Friend

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was born in Fostoria, Ohio, in 1897 and married Herbert Rothschild in 1917. When they began actively acquiring art in the 1950s, they pursued works of art for which they felt a deep personal affinity.

The exhibition catalogue will feature Nannette Rothschild's reminiscences of collecting art and will also include reproductions of the works on view and brief biographies of the artists. The book will be published by the Philadelphia Museum of Art, where Encounters with Modern Art will be on view, March 2 through May 11, 1997.

The National Gallery of Art, located on Constitution Avenue between Third and Seventh Streets, N.W., is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free of charge. For general information, call (202) 737-4215, or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at (202) 842-6176.

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