

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

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A MAJOR GERMAN ARTIST REDISCOVERED

ADOLPH MENZEL AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

SEPTEMBER 15, 1996 - JANUARY 5, 1997

Washington, D.C. -- Adolph Menzel's penetrating draftsmanship and versatility in style and subject matter will be on view in the first retrospective of works by this leading nineteenth-century German artist, at the National Gallery of Art, East Building, September 15, 1996 through January 5, 1997. Although Menzel is largely unknown to American audiences, he is familiar to French and German art lovers today and was celebrated in his lifetime.

The exhibition is made possible in part by Mannesmann Capital Corporation. Additional support is provided by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Adolph Menzel (1815-1905): Between Romanticism and Impressionism, which opened in Paris last April, is organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington; the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin/Preussischer Kulturbesitz; and the Réunion des Musées

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Nationaux/Musée d'Orsay, Paris. The exhibition will travel to Berlin, where it will be on view from February 7 through May 11, 1997.

"Adolph Menzel's work anticipated impressionism and he was greatly admired by Degas," said Earl A. Powell III, director, the National Gallery of Art. "This exhibition will be a revelation to many."

Menzel, who was never without a pencil in hand, was not only prolific, but extraordinarily inventive. The show will bring together approximately 130 of his paintings, drawings, pastels, and watercolors, and will include works spanning a wide range of contemporary and historical subject matter. In addition to many of Menzel's acknowledged masterpieces, among them Frederick the Great's Flute Concert at Sanssouci (1850-1852), An Afternoon in the Tuilleries Garden (1867), and King Wilhelm's Departure to the Army on July 31, 1870 (1871), the exhibition also includes numerous sketches and drawings depicting bourgeois life in Berlin, Menzel's family circle, and landscapes in and around the Prussian capital.

An extensive catalogue, the first major publication about Menzel's life and art in English, will also be available in German and French. The catalogue includes essays by noted Menzel scholars from Germany and the United States, rare period photographs of nineteenth-century Berlin, and 200 color

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illustrations of works in the exhibition.

Curators are Philip Conisbee, curator of French paintings, National Gallery of Art; Peter-Klaus Schuster, director, and Claude Keisch, curator, Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin; Marie Ursula Riemann-Reyher, curator, Kupferstichkabinett, Berlin; and Henri Loyrette, director, Musée d'Orsay.

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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