

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

UPDATED 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. The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

Adolph Menzel (1815-1905): Between Romanticism and Impressionism, which opened in Paris last April, is organized by

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the National Gallery of Art, Washington; the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin/Preussischer Kulturbesitz; and the Réunion des Musées 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."

Peter Prinz Wittgenstein, president of Mannesmann Capital Corporation, said, "Mannesmann is delighted to join with the National Gallery of Art in sharing the genius of Adolph Menzel with the American people. Mannesmann, a German corporation, is recognized as a global leader in industrial technology. We are excited to support this exhibition which represents the global premiere of the artist's inspiring work. Reunification of our nation has enabled us to highlight the achievement of our remarkable fellow countryman."

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 The Flute

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Concert of Frederick the Great at Sanssouci (1850-1852), Afternoon in the Tuileries Garden (1867), and Departure of King William for the Army, 31 July 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 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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