

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

Deborah Ziska, Information Officer

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 24, 1998

PRESS CONTACT: (202) 842-6353
Patricia O'Connell, Publicist

NATIONAL GALLERY PROGRAMS EXPLORE VAN GOGH'S DIVERSE CAREER

Washington, D.C. -- Special programs exploring diverse aspects of Vincent van Gogh's career will be held at the National Gallery of Art this fall in conjunction with Van Gogh's Van Goghs: Masterpieces from the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam, a rich survey of the artist's paintings on view in the West Building from October 4, 1998 through January 3, 1999. Highlights include in-depth individual lectures by art scholars such as John Leighton, director of the Van Gogh Museum, and Cynthia Saltzman, author of the new book Portrait of Dr. Gachet; a six-part lecture series addressing several aspects of Van Gogh's life and career; a concert of music by composers who were Van Gogh's contemporaries; and a series of biographical and documentary films on the artist.

Admission to all programs is free of charge, unless otherwise noted, and attendees will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis. Passes are required daily for admission to Van Gogh's Van Goghs. For information, call (202) 737-4215. Details follow.

SUNDAY LECTURES

2:00 p.m., East Building, large auditorium
October 4

Troubled Skies: Van Gogh's Last Paintings

John Leighton, director, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam

October 18

Dear Theo, Thank You for the Paints: Vincent van Gogh's Materials, His Technique, and the Presentation of Paintings

Ann Hoenigswald, paintings conservator, National Gallery of Art

- more -

Fourth Street at Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20565

(202) 842-6353, *Facsimile* (202) 842-2403

van gogh programs . . . page 2

SUNDAY LECTURES (cont.)

October 25

Picturing the Painter: Self-Portraits and the Professional Self

Carol Zemel, professor and chair, department of art history,
State University of New York, Buffalo

November 1

Van Gogh's Portrait of Dr. Gachet: "The Heartbroken Expression of Our Time"

Cynthia Saltzman, independent scholar, New York

December 13

*Was Van Gogh a Misunderstood Artist? His Own Ideas
and What Happened After His Death*

Louis van Tilborgh, chief curator, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam

LECTURE SERIES

Approaches to Van Gogh

Tuesdays and Saturdays at noon

East Building, large auditorium

A six-part lecture series by National Gallery of Art staff explores various aspects of Van Gogh's work.

- 1.) October 6 and 10
Van Gogh and His Sources, Eric Denker
- 2.) October 13 and 17
Van Gogh's Self-Portraits, Frances Feldman
- 3.) October 20 and 24
Van Gogh in Holland and Paris, Russell Sale
- 4.) October 27 and 31
Van Gogh's Flowers, Philip Leonard
- 5.) November 3 and 7
Van Gogh in Arles, Wilford W. Scott
- 6.) November 10 and 14
Van Gogh in Saint-Rémy, Faya Causey
Van Gogh in Auvers, Lynn Russell

- more -

van gogh programs . . . page 3

CONCERT

Sunday, October 4, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

West Building, West Garden Court

A special program of music by composers who were Van Gogh's contemporaries including Richard Wagner, Gabriel Fauré, and César Franck, is performed by the National Gallery Orchestra, conducted by George Manos. Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The entrance at Constitution Avenue and 6th Street remains open on Sundays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. For more information, call (202) 842-6698.

INTRODUCTION TO THE EXHIBITION

East Building, large auditorium

Slide overviews of the exhibition will be offered by staff lecturers. For dates and times, consult the calendar of events at the Art Information Desks, or call (202) 842-6706.

No reservations are required.

AUDIO TOUR

An INFORM® audio tour may be rented by visitors with passes to the exhibition in the East Sculpture Hall of the West Building. The fee is \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for senior citizens and students. Scripts are available to visitors with hearing impairments. For information, call (202) 842-6592.

FILMS

East Building, large auditorium

A series of biographical and documentary films on the artist will be shown on selected weekdays between October 14 and December 31. Among the films to be shown are Vincent: The Life and Death of Vincent van Gogh (Paul Cox, 1987); Vincent and Theo (Robert Altman, 1990); Van Gogh (Maurice Pialat, 1991); and In a Brilliant Light: Van Gogh in Arles (The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1984). For information and show times, consult the Calendar of Events or Film Calendar or call (202) 842-6799.

TEACHING PROGRAM

Vincent van Gogh, a new program issued on the occasion of the exhibition, includes 20 slides, and a 40-page booklet of commentaries on Van Gogh's life, letters, and artistic development, along with teaching activities for all levels, K-12. It is available on a free-loan basis from the extension programs of the department of education resources and accessible on the Gallery's Web site.

EVENING WITH EDUCATORS

Wednesday, November 18, 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

This after-hours program for educators includes a slide lecture, refreshments, and viewing of the exhibition. Held in conjunction with the Kennedy Center, it is open to teachers of all subjects K-12. Advance registration and a fee of \$20 are required. Call (202) 842-6796.

CATALOGUE

Van Gogh's Van Goghs, by Richard Kendall, with contributions by John Leighton and Sjraar van Heugten, is published by the National Gallery of Art in association with Harry N. Abrams, Inc. The catalogue numbers 160 pages, and features 89 color and 44 black-and-white illustrations. It is available from the Gallery Shops for \$25.00 (softbound) and \$37.50 (hardbound). For information on ordering by mail, call (800) 697-9350 or (301) 322-5900.

WEB SITE

Up-to-date information on *Van Gogh's Van Goghs* and the Gallery's own Van Gogh paintings can be found on the Gallery's web site at <http://www.nga.gov>. A special page, accessible from the home page, features images from the exhibition on a rotating basis, and provides links to other related sections. Approximately three weeks after the show opens, visitors will be able to take a virtual tour of the exhibition on the Web site. An exhibition brochure and teaching program will also be available on the site.

GENERAL

The National Gallery of Art is open Monday through Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For information on accessibility to galleries and public areas, assistive listening devices, sign language interpretation, and other services, please inquire at the Art Information Desks or call (202) 842-6690; TDD line (202) 842-6176.

Admission to the National Gallery of Art and to all of its programs is free. Daily passes are required for Van Gogh's Van Goghs. For information on how to obtain passes, please call (202) 737-4215 or visit the Gallery's Web site at <http://www.nga.gov>; TDD line (202) 842-6176.

SPONSOR

Van Gogh's Van Goghs: Masterpieces from the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam is made possible by generous support from Andersen Consulting. The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.