

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

Information Officer, Deborah Ziska

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CONTACT: (202) 842-6353
Nancy Starr, Publicist

"GIFTS TO THE NATION FROM MR. AND MRS. JOHN HAY WHITNEY"

ON VIEW AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

OCTOBER 18, 1998 - JANUARY 3, 1999

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Sixteen paintings that once were part of one of the most important privately held collections of nineteenth- and twentieth-century art will be the focus of Gifts to the Nation from Mr. and Mrs. John Hay Whitney, on view at the National Gallery of Art, October 18, 1998 - January 3, 1999.

The exhibition highlights eight masterworks by major artists bequeathed last spring by philanthropist Betsey Cushing Whitney, including Vincent van Gogh's Self-Portrait (1889), the first canvas the artist painted after his confinement at the asylum of Saint-Rémy, as well as eight outstanding paintings previously given from the John Hay Whitney Collection, including James McNeill Whistler's Wapping (1860-1864), a unique combination of genre, portraiture, and landscape. Mrs. Whitney, who passed away last March, and her husband, Ambassador John Hay "Jock" Whitney, who died in 1982, assembled a collection that focuses on the French impressionists and their successors.

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"We are extremely grateful to the Whitneys for their generosity over the years in donating such landmarks of American and French painting for visitors to enjoy. They were exemplary patrons," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art.

The exhibition is organized by the National Gallery of Art and is made possible by The Circle of the National Gallery of Art. The curator for the exhibition is Philip Conisbee, senior curator of European paintings, National Gallery of Art.

Other works given by Mrs. Whitney last spring include an unsurpassed group of French fauve paintings, with their distinctive palettes of intense and contrasting colors, by Henri Matisse, Georges Braque, Raoul Dufy, Maurice de Vlaminck, Albert Marquet, and Kees van Dongen.

Henri Matisse's Open Window, Collioure (1905), with its strong colors and spontaneous brush strokes, caused a critical furor when it was exhibited at the historic Salon d'Automne in 1905, where the "fauves" -- French for "wild beasts" -- first got their name. The Port of La Ciotat (1907) by Georges Braque is exceptional for its size and importance.

Raoul Dufy painted The Beach at Sainte-Adresse (1906) at a resort near Le Havre after he abandoned his more impressionist approach to nature. During a summer with Dufy, Albert Marquet painted Posters at Trouville (1906), a work of bright colors and bold patterns. Tugboat on the Seine, Chatou (1906) typifies Maurice de Vlaminck's robust style and simplicity. Kees van Dongen's exotic portrayal of a woman, Saida (c. 1913 ?), is characteristic of his exaggerated colors, strong contrasts, and dashing execution.

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Paintings by George Bellows, Thomas Eakins, James McNeill Whistler, Edward Hopper, André Derain, Henri Rousseau, and Henri Edmond Cross, which were given to the National Gallery from the John Hay Whitney Collection after the collector's death in 1982, will also be on view.

Club Night (1907) is the first in a series of six oils that George Bellows painted on the boxing theme and ranks among the best of his works in this genre. Thomas Eakins' Baby at Play (1876), which depicts his two-and-a-half-year-old niece, is the most charming of the portraits that he painted of his family at home in Philadelphia in the 1870s. Cape Cod Evening (1939), the first painting by Edward Hopper to have entered the National Gallery's collection, conveys the introspective mood typical of so much of this artist's work.

Also included are key examples of André Derain's fauve work. Mountains at Collioure (1905) was painted when he first worked with Matisse in that small Mediterranean port. Charing Cross Bridge, London (1906) is from a series of Derain's cityscapes, which he painted on commission for the dealer Ambrose Vollard, in response to Claude Monet's highly successful views of the city.

Tropical Forest with Monkeys (1910) reflects Henri Rousseau's delight in creating vivid exotic scenes. Coast Near Antibes (1891/1892) by Henri Edmond Cross, a follower of Seurat, is painted with brilliant dots of pigment.

Mrs. Whitney, one of the three legendary Cushing sisters of Boston, was a New York philanthropist in medicine and art who, with her husband Jock, amassed a great private art collection. She was also a member of the Gallery's Collectors Committee

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from its founding in 1975 until her death earlier this year.

Mr. Whitney, ambassador to Great Britain from 1957 to 1961 and publisher of the *New York Herald Tribune* and the *International Herald Tribune*, served as a member of the board of trustees and vice president of the National Gallery of Art from 1961 to 1979. He was also a member of three standing committees of the board from the outset of his service and served on the Building Committee responsible for the planning, design, and construction of the East Building. Mr. Whitney made a substantial gift to the Gallery's Patrons' Permanent Fund for future acquisitions in 1982. He also served as trustee and chairman of the board of the Museum of Modern Art and as senior fellow of Yale University.

Mr. Whitney began collecting works of art while a student at Yale. The John Hay Whitney Collection was exhibited as a collection only partially at the Tate Gallery, London, in 1960, at the close of Mr. Whitney's term as Ambassador to the Court of Saint James, and at the National Gallery of Art in 1983.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The National Gallery of Art, located on the National Mall at 4th Street and Constitution Avenue, 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. For general information, call (202) 737-4215, the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf at (202) 842-6176, or visit the National Gallery's Web site at <http://www.nga.gov>.

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National Gallery of Art

Washington, D.C.

Gifts to the Nation from Mr. and Mrs. John Hay Whitney

National Gallery of Art
October 18, 1998 – January 3, 1999
Checklist

- Black & White Prints available
- Slides available
- Color Transparencies available

1. George Bellows
 American, 1882 – 1925
● *Club Night*, 1907
■ oil on canvas
109.2 x 135 cm (43 x 53 1/8)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, John Hay Whitney Collection

2. Henri Edmond Cross
 French, 1856 – 1910
● *Coast near Antibes*, 1891/1892
■ oil on canvas
65.1 x 92.3 cm (25 5/8 x 36 1/4)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, John Hay Whitney Collection

3. André Derain
 French, 1880 – 1954
● *Charing Cross Bridge, London*, 1906
■ oil on canvas
80.3 x 100.3 cm (31 5/8 x 39 1/2)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, John Hay Whitney Collection

4. André Derain
 French, 1880 – 1954
● *Mountains at Collioure*, 1905
■ oil on canvas
81.3 x 100.3 cm (32 x 39 1/2)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, John Hay Whitney Collection

5. Thomas Eakins
 American, 1844 – 1916
● *Baby at Play*, 1876
■ oil on canvas
81.9 x 122.8 cm (32 1/4 x 48 3/8)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, John Hay Whitney Collection
6. Edward Hopper
 American, 1882 – 1967
● *Cape Cod Evening*, 1939
■ oil on canvas
76.2 x 101.6 cm (30 x 40)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, John Hay Whitney Collection
7. Henri Rousseau
 French, 1844 – 1910
● *Tropical Forest with Monkeys*, 1910
■ oil on canvas
129.5 x 162.5 cm (51 x 64)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, John Hay Whitney Collection
8. James McNeill Whistler
 American, 1834 – 1903
● *Wapping*, 1860 – 1864
■ oil on canvas
72 x 101.8 cm (28 3/8 x 40 1/16)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, John Hay Whitney Collection
9. Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec
 French, 1864 – 1901
● *Marcelle Lender Dancing the Bolero in "Chilpéric,"* 1895 – 1896
■ oil on canvas
145 x 149 cm (57 1/8 x 59)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Collection of Mr. and Mrs. John Hay Whitney
10. Georges Braque
 French, 1882 – 1963
● *The Port of La Ciotat*, 1907
■ oil on canvas
64.8 x 81 cm (25 1/2 x 31 7/8)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Collection of Mr. and Mrs. John Hay Whitney

11. Kees van Dongen
 French (born in The Netherlands), 1877 – 1968
● *Saida*, c. 1913?
■ oil on canvas
65.1 x 54.3 cm (25 5/8 x 21 3/8)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Collection of Mr. and Mrs. John Hay Whitney
12. Raoul Dufy
 French, 1877 – 1953
● *The Beach at Sainte-Adresse*, 1906
■ oil on canvas
54 x 64.8 cm (21 1/4 x 25 1/2)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Collection of Mr. and Mrs. John Hay Whitney
13. Vincent van Gogh
 Dutch, 1853 – 1890
● *Self-Portrait*, 1889
■ oil on canvas
57.2 x 43.8 cm (22 1/2 x 17 1/4)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Collection of Mr. and Mrs. John Hay Whitney
14. Albert Marquet
 French, 1875 – 1947
● *Posters at Trouville*, 1906
■ oil on canvas
65.1 x 81.3 cm (25 5/8 x 32)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Collection of Mr. and Mrs. John Hay Whitney
15. Henri Matisse
 French, 1869 – 1954
● *Open Window, Collioure*, 1905
■ oil on canvas
55.3 x 46 cm (21 3/4 x 18 1/8)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Collection of Mr. and Mrs. John Hay Whitney
16. Maurice de Vlaminck
 French, 1876 – 1958
● *Tugboat on the Seine, Chatou*, 1906
■ oil on canvas
50.2 x 65.1 cm (19 3/4 x 25 5/8)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Collection of Mr. and Mrs. John Hay Whitney