

Release Date: April 8, 2002

National Gallery of Art Launches New Audio Tour in Spanish and English for "Goya: Images of Women"

Washington, DC -- The National Gallery of Art announces the release of a new self-guided audio program offered in English and Spanish for the exhibition *Goya: Images of Women*, which is on view in the West Building of the National Gallery of Art through June 2, 2002. With this Acoustiguide tour, visitors can learn about the exhibition at their own pace, calling up works in any order they choose and tailoring the amount of information to their own interests. The Spanish and English versions contain the same information.

Goya: Images of Women is the first major exhibition in the United States dedicated to an examination of Francisco Goya's representation of women. Comprising 114 paintings, drawings, prints, tapestry cartoons, and tapestries—some of which have never traveled to the States—the exhibition spans the artist's career from his arrival at the court of Madrid to his last years in Bordeaux.

"The audio tour provides information and insight directly from the curator and scholars," said National Gallery of Art director Earl A. Powell III, who narrated the English-language version. "Through this self-contained and easy-to-use educational tool we are able to provide many levels of information on Goya, the times in which he lived, his influences on future generations of artists, and his exquisite portraits of many of the most powerful women of Madrid in the 18th and 19th centuries."

Included among the 32 works highlighted on this audio program are the celebrated *Naked Maja (Maja desnuda)* (1797—1800) and *Clothed Maja (Maja vestida)* (1800—1805). Janis A. Tomlinson, guest curator of the exhibition and director of Arts in the

Academy at the National Academy of Sciences, provides the curatorial background for the exhibition. Nigel Glendinning, professor emeritus at Queen Mary and Westfield College at the University of London, offers a literary perspective. Aileen Ribeiro, professor at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London and an expert on costume, provides historical explanations on elements of Spanish dress that are featured in Goya's portraits of *María Teresa de Borbón y Vallabriga, later Countess of Chinchón* (1783) and actress *Antonia Zárate* (1805—1806) among others.

Fred Licht, curator of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice and a specialist in 20th century art, discusses how future generations of artists were influenced by Goya's genius.

The audio tour also includes musical selections by the Austrian composer Franz Josef Haydn—a particular favorite of the duchess of Osuna who is the subject of the splendid portrait of the Dukes of Osuna and their children, and compositions by Luigi Boccherini, who is thought to be one of the figures represented in *The Family of the Infante Don Luis* (1784)—a work that is on view for the first time in the United States, from the Fondazione Magnani-Rocca, Parma, Italy.

Several stops on the tour discuss the printmaking processes of lithography and aquatint and explain the subject matter and techniques Goya used in the creation of two series of etchings—*The Caprichos* and *The Disasters of War*—while others feature dramatic readings of excerpts from correspondence written by Goya.

The audio program is available for rental at the entrance to the exhibition. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$4 for senior citizens, students, and individuals in groups of 10 or more.

Acoustiguide Corporation produced the audio program in conjunction with the National Gallery of Art. The tour is provided on Acoustiguide's state-of-the-art MP3 digital wand and headphone players. These lightweight units are compatible with hearing aids and have special features for the visually impaired.

The exhibition is made possible by generous support from the Catherine B. Reynolds

Foundation and General Dynamics/General Dynamics Santa Barbara Sistemas.

Goya: Images of Women is organized by the Fundación Amigos del Museo del Prado, on the occasion of their 20th anniversary; the Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid; and the National Gallery of Art, Washington. It is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

###

General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW and are 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. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. With the exception of the atrium and library, the galleries in the East Building will be closing gradually beginning in July 2013 and will remain closed for approximately three years for Master Facilities Plan and renovations. For specific updates on gallery closings, visit www.nga.gov/renovation (<http://www.nga.gov/renovation>) .

For information call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's website at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt and on Twitter at twitter.com/ngadc.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

Press Office

National Gallery of Art

2000B South Club Drive

Landover, MD 20785

phone: (202) 842-6353 e-mail: pressinfo@nga.gov

Deborah Ziska

Chief of Press and Public Information

(202) 842-6353

ds-ziska@nga.gov