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National Gallery of Art Celebrates the 2008 Holiday Season



View of the National Gallery of Art Rotunda decorated with Poinsettia plants and holiday greenery

Photo by Rob Shelley © 2006 Trustees, National Gallery of Art

With the arrival of the holiday season, the National Gallery of Art presents a wide array of holiday offerings, include a film program, caroling, gallery talks, and concerts amidst festive holiday decorations. All programs are free and available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden ice rink also offers skaters of all ages a memorable setting to enjoy the holiday season in Washington, DC.

Rotunda Decorations

Beginning Friday, December 5, hundreds of red and white poinsettias, an abundance of amaryllis plants, and twelve Christmas trees adorned with sparkling white lights will

be installed in the grand West Building Rotunda and Garden Courts, giving the Main Floor of the West Building a festive atmosphere for the holiday season.

Film Program

In the 50-minute film *The Private Life of a Christmas Masterpiece: The Annunciation* (BBC, 2006) conservators and curators from the UK and US disclose details of the history, iconography, and preservation of Jan van Eyck's *The Annunciation*, one of the great works in the National Gallery of Art collection. Screenings are at 12:30 p.m. on December 10–12, 17–19, 24, and 26 in the East Building Auditorium.

Gallery Talks

The Christmas Story in Art, a 60-minute discussion about paintings in the permanent collection that contain holiday themes telling the Christian story of the birth of Jesus, will be led by Gallery lecturer J. Russell Sale on December 9, 11, 16, 18, and 23 at 11:00 a.m. in the West Building Rotunda. Additional information is available at www.nga.gov/programs/galtalks (<http://www.nga.gov/programs/galtalks>).

Caroling in the West Building Rotunda

Caroling in the seasonally decorated West Building Rotunda has become a favorite family activity during the holiday season at the Gallery. Visitors are invited to sing along with guest choirs and ensembles at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. on December 13, 14, 20, and 21. Singers and spectators of all ages are welcome. Caroling is led this year by the following groups:

December 13

Stoneridge School of the Sacred Heart, Bethesda, MD

Nancy Fazio, Director

December 14

Annapolis Area Christian School Madrigal Singers

Cindy Bauchspies, Director

December 20

Marriotts Ridge High School

Terry Eberhardt, Director

December 21

National Gallery Orchestra Strings

Stephen Ackert, Conductor

Holiday Concerts

Concerts, offered on Sundays in the West Garden Court of the West Building, are free to the public. Performances begin at 6:30 p.m. (unless noted otherwise) and end at approximately 8:00 p.m. Audiences are admitted on a first-come, first-seated basis starting at 6:00 p.m. The Garden Café, located in the West Building, remains open until 6:00 p.m.

The Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW entrance to the West Building and the Fourth Street entrance to the East Building remain open until 6:30 p.m. No entry or re-entry to either building is permitted after 6:30. For a full concert listing, visit www.nga.gov/programs/music/ (<http://www.nga.gov/programs/music/>) or call (202) 842-6941. This year's participants include:

December 14

New York Opera Society and Soloists from Norway

Norwegian Christmas Festival Concert

December 21

Alessandra Marc, soprano, with National Gallery Orchestra Strings

Holiday Concert

December 28

National Gallery Orchestra, with guest conductor Manfred Knoop

New Year Concert

Web Feature

Visitors to the Gallery's Web site may enjoy a streaming slideshow narrated by Gallery

director Earl A. Powell III that explores *The Adoration of the Magi* (c. 1440/1460), a complex and colorful painting from Renaissance Florence. Fra Angelico and Fra Filippo Lippi created the masterpiece, which tells the story of the three kings bringing gifts to the Christ Child twelve days after his birth. The online feature can be found at www.nga.gov/magi. (<http://www.nga.gov/magi>)

Gallery Shops

The Gallery's Holiday Shop offers wrapping paper, gift tags, holiday books and activities for children, and the popular 2009 National Gallery of Art engagement and wall calendars. A wide array of boxed greeting cards are available, including cards featuring works of art by Giorgione, Sandro Botticelli, and Ansel Adams from the Gallery's permanent collection. The Gallery Shops offer a variety of art-related gifts such as jewelry, art books, and prints.

In honor of the popular exhibition *Pompeii and the Roman Villa: Art and Culture around the Bay of Naples*, the cookbook *Cucina Napoletana: 100 Recipes from Italy's Most Vibrant City* is available, as well as beautiful Neapolitan ceramic ware. An attractive catalogue of the exhibition and a variety of home accessories, apparel, jewelry, and gift items inspired by works of art and luxury goods excavated in Pompeii are sold in the exhibition shop. For additional unique gift ideas, browse through the online offerings at www.nga.gov/shop.

Restaurants

During the month of December, special refreshments, including hot cocoa and holiday sweets with an international flavor, may be purchased in the Espresso & Gelato Bar in the East Building Concourse and in the Sculpture Garden Pavilion Café. The Espresso & Gelato Bar will offer enticing holiday flavors of gelato and sorbetto, including apple cider, pumpkin, caramel apple, and peppermint candy cane.

In conjunction with the Pompeii exhibition, visitors to the National Gallery of Art *Garden Café Italia* may enjoy cuisine from the region of Campania—home to Naples, Salerno, Capri, and the Amalfi Coast—in signature dishes from Chef Arturo Iengo of Ristorante Pascalucci in Benevento, Italy, and Chef Fabio Salvatore of Café Milano in

Georgetown, Washington, DC. .

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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](http://www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt) at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt and on [Twitter](http://twitter.com/ngadc) 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:

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