

Official Statement Regarding "Two Tahitian Women" by Paul Gauguin

Update, April 4, 1:55 PM EST:

After a thorough examination, conservators from the National Gallery of Art and The Metropolitan Museum of Art report that the painting "Two Tahitian Women" by Paul Gauguin sustained no damage. It will go back on public view on Tuesday morning, April 5. The Gallery is open free of charge, Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, 11 am to 6 pm.

Official Statement, April 4, 2011, 11:12 AM EST:

At approximately 4:45 pm on Friday, April 1, a woman hit the plexiglass covering the painting "Two Tahitian Women" (1899) by Paul Gauguin and attempted to pull it from the wall in the exhibition currently on view, "Gauguin: Maker of Myth." Initial examination indicates that the painting has not suffered any damage. It is covered by plexiglass, with adequate space between the glazing and the canvas. A Gallery security officer who was stationed nearby was the first to reach the woman. He immediately restrained and detained the woman and she was later charged with destruction of property and attempted theft, second degree. The security officer's actions prevented any potential harm to visitors or works of art. The woman appeared in U.S. District Court on Saturday. The painting is on loan from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, which has been informed of the incident. This morning the painting was removed and taken to the Gallery's conservation lab for further in-depth examination by conservators from both museums.

Deborah Ziska
Spokesperson

National Gallery of Art

For additional information about the exhibition go to:

"Gauguin: Maker of Myths" Press Release

(<http://www.nga.gov/press/exh/3011/index.shtm>)

Background about the painting:

In this painting from 1899, among Gauguin's most popular, he depicts two Tahitian women in a serene state of reverence, as they offer flowers, perhaps during a religious ceremony. Their skin is depicted in golden hues, set off by the cool colors of their clothes and of the tropical glade in which they stand. The painting captures Gauguin's mythical idea of Tahiti as a paradise of beautiful, mysterious women.

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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 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:

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