



Release Date: February 14, 2020

National Gallery of Art Washington Announces New Curator of Italian and Spanish Paintings Eve Straussman-Pflanzer



Eve Straussman-Pflanzer
Photo credit: Eric Wheeler

Washington, DC—The National Gallery of Art, Washington, announced today that Eve Straussman-Pflanzer has been appointed curator and head of Italian and Spanish paintings. She will begin the post in June 2020. Straussman-Pflanzer is currently head of the European art department and the Elizabeth and Allan Shelden Curator of European Paintings at the Detroit Institute of Arts, where she has worked since 2016. Straussman-Pflanzer has previously held posts at Wellesley College's Davis Museum in Massachusetts, the Art Institute of Chicago, and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. In her new position at the Gallery, Straussman-Pflanzer will succeed David Alan Brown, who retired in 2019 after serving 45 years as curator.

"I am delighted to welcome Eve to Washington and to the National Gallery of Art team. She inherits an important collection of Italian and Spanish paintings—one that includes our beloved *Ginevra de' Benci* by Leonardo da Vinci," said Kaywin Feldman, director of the National Gallery of Art. "Eve's experience, scholarship, and creativity will enable us to understand and exhibit that collection in new ways while also fueling visitor curiosity about the extraordinary works we hold in trust for the nation."

Eve Straussman-Pflanzer

Prior to her current tenure at the DIA, Straussman-Pflanzer served as assistant director of curatorial affairs/senior curator of collections at the Davis Museum, where she oversaw the reinstallation of the permanent collection and curated the first monographic exhibition in the United States devoted to the 17th-century Florentine artist Carlo Dolci. At The Met and the Art Institute of Chicago, she researched and published on European painting and sculpture from the Renaissance to the 18th century. At the Art Institute, she also curated the 2013 exhibition *Violence and Virtue: Artemisia Gentileschi's Judith Slaying Holofernes*. Straussman-Pflanzer is an authority on Italian painting in the early modern period and an expert on early modern women artists and patrons. She is presently curating a groundbreaking exhibition on Renaissance and baroque Italian women artists, which will open at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, Connecticut, in October 2020 and at the DIA in February 2021.

Straussman-Pflanzer is a native of New York City. She holds a BA from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, and a PhD from the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University.

Italian and Spanish Paintings at the National Gallery of Art

The National Gallery of Art's collection of Italian paintings is considered the most important in the United States and among the finest and most comprehensive in the world. It spans trailblazing 14th-century works by Duccio and Giotto; extraordinary holdings of Florentine Renaissance masters Sandro Botticelli, Fra Angelico, Leonardo da Vinci, and Raphael; and outstanding examples from Venice by Giorgione and Titian. The Baroque period is represented with masterpieces by Lodovico Carracci and Orazio Gentileschi, and the 18th century is captured by dazzling Venetian view paintings. This remarkable collection includes a number of paintings iconic in the history of art—most notably Leonardo's famed portrait of *Ginevra de' Benci*.

The Gallery's collection of Spanish paintings reflects the particular tastes of US collectors in the early 20th century. Its richness is represented by distinguished masterworks by El Greco and Francisco de Goya; well-known canvases by Diego Velázquez, Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, and Francisco de Zurbarán; and exquisite still lifes by Juan van der Hamen y León and Luis Meléndez.

Press Contact:

Anabeth Guthrie, (202) 842-6804 or a-guthrie@nga.gov

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 at 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. For information call (202) 737-4215 or visit the Gallery's Web site at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt, Twitter at www.twitter.com/ngadc, and Instagram at <http://instagram.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:

Department of Communications

National Gallery of Art

2000B South Club Drive

Landover, MD 20785

phone: (202) 842-6353

e-mail: pressinfo@nga.gov

Anabeth Guthrie

Chief of Communications

(202) 842-6804

a-guthrie@nga.gov

Newsletters

FOR JOURNALISTS:

[Sign up here](#) to receive the latest news briefs from the National Gallery of Art Communications Office.

GENERAL PUBLIC:

The Gallery also offers a broad range of newsletters for various interests. [Follow this link to view the complete list.](#)

PRESS KIT ▼

Press Release

[Order Press Images](#)

PRESS CONTACT ▼

Anabeth Guthrie

(202) 842-6804

a-guthrie@nga.gov

Questions from members of the media may be directed to the Department of Communications at (202) 842-6353 or pressinfo@nga.gov

The public may call (202) 737-4215 or visit www.nga.gov for more information about the **National Gallery of Art**.

RSS (NEWS FEED)

http://www.nga.gov/content/dam/ngaweb/press/rss/press_feed.xml

Stay up to date about our exhibitions, news, programs, and special offers.

Enter your e-mail

SUBSCRIBE

About

[About the Gallery](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Press](#)

[Opportunities](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Plan a Visit

[Getting Here](#)

Notice: The Gallery is closed to the public until further notice. All public events are canceled through Monday, September 7, 2020. [Learn more.](#)

[Today's Tours](#)

[Food & Drink](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Downloadable Map](#)

Get Involved

[Donate](#)

[Membership](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Shop Online](#)

Resources

[Search the Collection](#)

[Conservation](#)

[Library](#)

[Archives](#)

[CASVA](#)

[Audio/Video](#)

[NGA Images](#)

East Building

[4th St and Constitution Ave NW](#)

West Building

[6th St and Constitution Ave NW](#)

Sculpture Garden

[7th St and Constitution Ave NW](#)

The Gallery is closed to the public until further notice. All public events are canceled through Sunday, May 31, 2020. [Learn more.](#)



© 2020 National Gallery of Art

[Notices](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Privacy Policy](#)