

Feu d'Artifice

National Gallery of Art June 1, 1976





The National Gallery of Art presents

“The Triumph of Reason
and Order
Over
Chaos and War”

a feu d'artifice
with music

To celebrate the Bicentennial exhibition
The Eye of Thomas Jefferson
June 1, 1976

This event has been made possible through the generosity of
The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
and with the cooperation of the
National Park Service



Cover: *Fireworks given to celebrate the birth of the Dauphin,*
Paris, 1782; engraving by Moreau-le-Jeune. Photograph
courtesy of International Exhibitions Foundation.



WHEN THOMAS JEFFERSON arrived on "the Vaunted Scene of Europe" in 1784, the use of fireworks to mark great public occasions had been perfected into an elaborate art form of ancient and complex tradition. Some of the most accomplished designers of the period worked out the spectacular productions marking royal birthdays and marriages, treaties of state and other great occasions. Because of their popularity, fireworks were also presented in pleasure gardens as public entertainment, using theatrical sets, music and even ballet.

In the summer of 1786, Jefferson and Maria Cosway went to the Ruggieri gardens to see a fireworks presentation during one of their memorable days of sightseeing in Paris. Jefferson later wrote her, in what he called a dialogue between the Head and the Heart, "Well, after dinner to St. Cloud, from St. Cloud to Ruggieri's . . . and if the day had been as long as a Lapland Summer day, you would still have contrived means among you, to have filled it."

The music for the occasion has been selected by Mr. Richard Bales from eighteenth-century literature and will be performed by the National Gallery Orchestra, conducted by Richard Bales, Assistant to the Director (Music). Ruggieri of Paris has produced the fête.

PROGRAM

INCIDENTAL MUSIC

- Jean Joseph Mouret Rondeau
(1682-1738)
- Christoph Willibald Glück Ballet Suite
(1714-1787)
- Jean Baptiste Lully La Marche from "Thésée"
(1632-1687)

THREE TRADITIONAL ARTILLERY SALUTES signaling the beginning of the fête.

OVERTURE

- Michel-Richard Delalande Caprice de Villers Cotterets
(1657-1764)

FIREWORKS

- I A representation of Chaos, Riot and Revolt leading to the calamities of war.
- II The Wrath of God
- III Le Coup d'Arret
God's final Fury putting an end to Chaos signaled by a deafening salvo.
- IV A Return to Calm and Order

CASCADE

- Jean Philippe Rameau Tambourin
(1683-1764)
- V Order and Reason spread throughout the land.
- VI The Illumination of Monticello
- VII The Rising of the Sun
- VIII Grande Girande

As darkness returns, and the lights on the dome of the Capitol go up, the orchestra will lead the assembled in the Star Spangled Banner.



The Eye of Thomas Jefferson

In Thomas Jefferson, the nation's third president, statesmanship, diplomacy and a love of knowledge combined with a sweeping artistic vision to leave a profound impress on the spirit and direction of the American Republic.

While Jefferson's career as a legislator, diplomat, revolutionary and president are widely known, his significant influence on the arts in America is insufficiently realized, even among the citizenry whose tastes he helped shape.

From June 5 to September 6, 1976, as part of its Bicentennial celebration, the National Gallery of Art is honored to present *The Eye of Thomas Jefferson*, a comprehensive examination of Jefferson's contribution to the creative arts and of the sources from which he drew his inspiration.

The exhibition, one of the largest ever mounted by the Gallery, draws upon public and private collections in the United States and abroad and includes works never before shown in this country.