

March 10, 1945

NEWS RELEASE

National Gallery of Art
Washington, D. C.

FOR RELEASE: Sunday papers
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WASHINGTON, March 10: David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that, at the invitation of the Tate Gallery, London, the Trustees and Director of the National Gallery will organize an exhibition of American painting to be held at the Tate Gallery as soon after the war as circumstances permit.

The Board and Director, Mr. John Rothenstein, of the Tate Gallery have long wished that such an exhibition might take place, and the project was about to be realized in 1939 when the war intervened.

The exhibition as now planned will comprise 150 pictures and will be the first comprehensive show of American painting to be held in Great Britain. It will introduce for the first time to the British public some of the masterpieces of American art, ranging from the eighteenth century to the present day. The paintings are to be selected by a committee composed of directors and other officers of some of the most important public collections in the United States: Mr. Alfred H. Barr, Jr., of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Mr. George H. Edgell, Director, Boston Museum of Fine Arts; Mrs. Juliana Force, Director, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Mr. Fiske Kimball, Director, Philadelphia Museum of Art; Mr. William M. Milliken, Director, Cleveland Museum of Art; Mr. Duncan Phillips, Director, Phillips Memorial Gallery, Washington; Mr. Daniel Catton Rich, Director, Chicago Art Institute; Mr. Francis Henry Taylor, Director, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Mr. John Walker, Chief Curator, National Gallery of Art, Washington.

A small proportion of the exhibition, however, will be available from English sources, principally from the Tate and National Galleries, London, such as Whistler's "Battersea Bridge" and "The Little White Girl"; Sargent's "Madame Gautreau", and "Lord Ribblesdale"; Copley's "Death of Major Pierson", and other paintings by Sargent, Whistler, and Copley.

King George has consented to lend pictures from the Royal Collections by Benjamin West (1738-1820), the Pennsylvania-born President of the Royal Academy. A particular endeavor will be made to represent the contemporary American school as fully as the scope of the exhibition permits.

The display of the best British-owned American paintings, side by side with the finest works from collections in the United States, will give the exhibition a unique character and provide a survey of the achievements of American art of unprecedented importance.

The Tate Gallery, which was opened to the public in 1897, houses Great Britain's national collection of British paintings from the earliest times to the present day, as well as national collections of modern art from other countries.

The National Gallery of Art, at Washington, D. C., established by Act of Congress and opened to the public four years ago, has assembled for the American people one of the great collections of painting and sculpture in the world, including famous works of art from the Mellon, Kress, Widener, Dale, and other collections.