

NEWS RELEASE

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"ASIAN ARTISTS IN CRYSTAL"

EXHIBITION TO OPEN IN MID-JANUARY, 1956

WASHINGTON, November 3, 1955: The National Gallery of Art is completing arrangements for a four-weeks' exhibition, beginning in mid-January, of 36 Steuben crystal pieces engraved with designs by contemporary artists of 16 Asian countries, it was announced today by David E. Finley, Director. The exhibition will also include the artists' original drawings commissioned by Steuben Glass for this purpose.

In addition to the Asian pieces, there will be shown a group of designs by contemporary American glassmakers, from the collections of The Corning Museum of Glass.

Drawings from which "Asian Artists in Crystal" was developed were obtained by Karl Kup, Curator of Prints, the New York Public Library, on an extensive trip throughout the Far and Near East in 1954-55. The contemporary art of the great cultural areas of Buddhist, Hindu and Moslem thought will be represented by crystal forms engraved with designs by artists of Nationalist China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, Burma, India, Ceylon, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Turkey and Egypt.

According to Arthur A. Houghton, Jr., president of Steuben Glass, this collection was developed in the belief that the artists of Asia can make a signal contribution to the art of engraved glass design, and that examples of their work on crystal will foster the growing appreciation of Asian art in America.

"Asian Artists in Crystal" will be exhibited by The Metropolitan Museum of Art following its first showing by the National Gallery of Art. An illustrated catalogue will be published, with foreword by the Directors of the two museums.

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