

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

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EAKINS EXHIBITION TO BE HELD AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART IN FALL OF 1961

WASHINGTON, D. C. January 22: In the fall of 1961 the National Gallery of Art plans to hold a retrospective exhibition of the works of the great American artist, Thomas Eakins (1844-1916), it was announced today by John Walker, Director. This will be a major exhibition showing the artist's paintings in oil and water color and also his drawings and sculpture. It will be the third in the National Gallery series of comprehensive exhibitions of distinguished American artists; the first two were devoted to George Bellows and Winslow Homer.

Thomas Eakins, who, with Winslow Homer, is a great exponent of realistic painting, was born in Philadelphia and passed most of his life there. He trained at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and in Paris under Gérôme. Later he became one of the great teachers at the Pennsylvania Academy but was forced by public opinion to resign when he insisted that his students, women as well as men, work from male models. His concern for an exact knowledge of anatomy was accompanied by a scientific interest in perspective and light. He loved the out-of-doors and painted sportsmen rowing, hunting, and sailing. Indoors he depicted scenes from the boxing arena and surgeons lecturing to students during an operation, as well as musicians and genre scenes of home life. As a portraitist, no American painter has equalled Eakins' penetrating insight into human character.