

NATIONAL  
GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON 25 DC • REpublic 7-4215 extension 248

HOLD FOR RELEASE:

Monday, December 18

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 18, 1961. John Walker, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that Mrs. Mellon Bruce of New York has given permission to the National Gallery to state that it was her gift which made possible the purchase of the Fragonard painting, A Young Girl Reading, acquired at the auction of the Erickson collection in New York on November 15. Mrs. Bruce has presented the painting to the Gallery in memory of her father, Mr. Andrew Mellon.

The canvas, 32 inches high by 25 1/2 inches wide, was painted by the French artist Jean-Honoré Fragonard (1732-1806) in about 1776. The dominant tone of the picture is a warm honey-color; the girl wears a saffron-yellow dress with a white ruff, and her upswept auburn hair is tied with a pink ribbon. Apollo magazine has called the picture "perhaps Fragonard's all-around most satisfying and appealing work, both in point of display of unparalleled virtuosity as well as enchanting choice of subject."

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Color transparencies, separations, and black-and-white glossy prints available from J. Carter Brown, National Gallery of Art, Washington 25, D.C., REpublic 7-4215, Extension 248.