

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 13, 1962. John Walker, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that an exhibition of "AMERICAN PRINTS TODAY, 1962" will be opened to the public on Sunday, September 23, and will run through Sunday, October 14. The purpose of the exhibition, which has been organized by the Print Council of America, is to show a cross-section of the best work done in the field of graphic art in this country between January, 1959, and December, 1961.

The 55 prints by 48 leading American printmakers include etchings, engravings, woodcuts, lithographs, serigraphs, aquatints, and various forms of intaglios. The exhibition represents a selection from the work of over three thousand printmakers currently working in the United States.

The exhibition, which has been assisted by grants from the Avalon and Old Dominion Foundations, has some unusual aspects. The identical exhibition will appear simultaneously in seven other museums, and subsequently in two other groups of eight museums, for a total of twenty-four American cities. This is possible because a print, being a work of graphic art, is created in multiple originals, as distinct from a painting, of which there is only one original.

Mr. Lessing J. Rosenwald, President of the Print Council of America, is the donor to the National Gallery of a collection of prints that the Saturday Review has called "America's greatest gallery of prints." Mr. Rosenwald has written,

Three years ago, on the occasion of the Print Council's first multiple print exhibition, I was hopeful, even confident, that our pioneering project would stimulate public interest in creative graphic art. It now gives me great satisfaction to report that the expectations have been realized - even beyond my hopes...Our experiment has clearly played a part in the veritable renaissance in print making and print collecting which has been taking place throughout the United States.

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