

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • REpublic 7-4215 extension 248

HOLD FOR RELEASE:  
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WASHINGTON, D.C. May 26, 1965. John Walker, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that Rembrandt's Portrait of the Artist's Son Titus will be put on exhibition to the public at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 28. The painting, acquired at auction in London by the Norton Simon Foundation on March 19, is being shown first in America at the National Gallery. The picture will be put on special exhibition in a room by itself, Lobby B, between the West Sculpture Hall and the West Garden Court on the main floor. Mr. Simon will be present at the occasion.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Promptly at 2:30 p.m. the Rembrandt will be taken out of its vault and installed in Lobby B. In response to preliminary demand, photography of both the removal from the vault and the hanging of the picture will be permitted. Reporters and photographers should ask at the Constitution Avenue Guard's desk for J. Carter Brown.

The Portrait of the Artist's Son Titus, oil on canvas, 25-1/2 in. x 22 in., is a life-size, half-length portrait of a young boy. He wears a brownish-gray jacket and a yellow sash, and on his curly, fair hair is a black velvet cap with a red and white plume. Born in 1641, Titus appears often in his father's work, as in the well-known paintings in Rotterdam, London (Wallace Collection), Vienna, Baltimore, and Amsterdam (lent to the Rijksmuseum by the Louvre). From the apparent age of the sitter, the portrait is datable to about 1650.

Mr. Walker said, "The poetic appeal of the pale boy's face staring out, the brilliance of the artist's late, sketchy brushwork,

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the fantasy of the costume, and the earnest intimacy that the artist came to after fortune turned against him all combine to make this painting not only a great document but a joy to look at."

The painting was bought in the Netherlands in the early 19th century by the then Lord Spencer. It remained at his house, Althorp, Northamptonshire, until September, 1915. It was then sold to Herbert (later Sir Herbert) Cook for \$300,000, joining the famous Cook Collection at Doughty House, Richmond (near London). The National Gallery in London tried to buy it on three separate occasions, 1916, 1929, and 1945. In March of this year it was sold by Lady Cook at the auction house of Christie's (Christie, Manson and Woods), London, to the Norton Simon Foundation. It arrived at Dulles Airport on Monday evening, May 17, and was taken under armed guard to the National Gallery of Art.

In commenting on plans for exhibiting the painting, Mr. Simon said, "The painting has such great beauty and universal appeal that the Foundation has a special obligation to exhibit it in the most favorable circumstances for the widest possible public enjoyment. Accordingly, we decided to have its first showing in America at the National Gallery--an institution dedicated to serving all Americans."

Mr. Norton Simon is the President of the Norton Simon Foundation, a charitable institution engaged principally in lending and donating works of art to public museums. In addition, his personal art collection ranges from early Renaissance to contemporary art and includes an extensive selection of French Impressionists.

Mr. Simon, born in Portland, Oregon in 1907, has been a resident of Los Angeles, California since 1927. He is a Director and

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Chairman of the Finance Committee of Hunt Foods and Industries, Inc., Fullerton, California; a Director and Chairman of the Finance Committee of the McCall Corporation, New York; and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Wheeling Steel Corporation, Wheeling, West Virginia, as well as serving as a director of other companies. In addition, he is a member of the Board of Regents of the University of California, a Member of the Board of Museum Associates of the Los Angeles County Museum, and a Trustee of Reed College, Portland, Oregon.

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4" x 5" color transparencies and black-and-white glossy photographs available on loan for publication from J. Carter Brown, 737-4215, ext. 248.