

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, D. C. The Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg, Florida, will be the first museum to benefit from a newly established Lending Collection of European Paintings from the National Gallery of Art.

Four paintings will be lent to the Florida museum for one year, it was announced today by John Walker, Director of the National Gallery. Mr. Walker said the loan might be extended at the end of that period.

The pictures from the Lending Collection of European Paintings are Sir Archibald Campbell by George Romney (Timken Collection), Captain Patrick Miller by Henry Raeburn (Gift of Pauline Sabin Davis), and Diana and Endymion by Francois Boucher (Timken Collection). The St. Petersburg museum also will receive an American painting, Girl With Doll, by an unknown primitive artist (Collection of Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch).

Mr. Walker explained that the Lending Collection of European Paintings represents an expansion of National Gallery policy.

"It has been the policy of the National Gallery of Art to lend only American paintings," he said. "Our plan for not lending European paintings which are regularly on exhibit remains unchanged. But as the National Gallery's collections have increased in size and scope, it has now become possible to aid smaller U. S. museums by establishing this lending group of paintings by artists other than those of the American School."

The four paintings selected for St. Petersburg will be placed on view at the Museum of Fine Arts beginning August 2.

In commenting on the loan, Museum Director Rexford Stead expressed pleasure that St. Petersburg's art museum is the first in the Nation to benefit under the National Gallery's new policy.

"As we build our own collections," Mr. Stead noted, "it is most helpful to have the assistance of the National Gallery in presenting a more complete program to a large and eager public. We are grateful indeed to Mr. Walker and the Gallery's Trustees for this happy instance of cooperation."

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