

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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"INGRES IN ROME" DRAWINGS EXHIBITION BEGINS TOUR AT NATIONAL GALLERY

WASHINGTON, D.C. December 28, 1970. An exhibition of 150 drawings, largely of Rome and its environs, by the nineteenth-century French painter Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres (1780-1867), done during a youthful stay in Italy, will open at the National Gallery of Art on January 24, beginning a tour of American cities.

One hundred and thirty-five drawings are lent by the Musée Ingres at Montauban, France, the artist's native city. To be seen in America for the first time, they consist of architectural studies, landscapes, and views of Rome and the surrounding area.

Also included are works lent by the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Rhode Island School of Design, and several private American collections. The nine drawings from American collections are chiefly portraits of friends and acquaintances seen against Roman backgrounds. Three small round landscape paintings of the same period, the only landscape paintings in Ingres' oeuvre, have been lent by the two French museums.

Works for the exhibition, organized by the International Exhibitions Foundation, Washington, were chosen by Dr. Hans Naef of Zurich, an authority on Ingres. Dr. Naef has also prepared the exhibition catalog, which will sell for \$4.95.

Ingres began his Roman sojourn in 1806 as a 26-year-old recipient of the Prix de Rome. He was to remain until 1820, his growing love for the city even triumphing over his feeling for his fiancée, Mlle. Julie Forestier, a fellow painter. He sent two of

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the landscape paintings and a number of drawings to Julie and her family to show them his surroundings, but the engagement was finally broken when Ingres could not tear himself away from the Eternal City to return to Paris.

The drawings show Ingres' immediate environment--the palazzo, pavillions and grounds of the Villa Medici, where he lived for four years on the Prix de Rome stipend, and views of Rome from the villa--as well as various churches and sites around the city, such as Santa Maria Maggiore, Santa Trinità dei Monti (above the Spanish Steps), the Capitoline Hill, the Forum, the square of Saint Peter's, Castel Gandolfo, and Tivoli.

These drawings were later virtually ignored and even hidden by the artist, whose success in his own time resulted from his portraits and historical paintings. But his lovely, meticulous views of Italian cities and countryside have come into their own in the twentieth century.

The exhibition, sponsored by His Excellency Charles Lucet, French Ambassador to the United States, will close at the National Gallery of Art on February 21. It will then travel to Philadelphia, New York and Kansas City.

GUEST SPEAKERS ON INGRES

Three of the National Gallery's 4:00 Sunday lectures in January and February will deal with the work of the artist. Agnes Mongan, Director and Curator of Drawings of the Fogg Museum at Harvard University, will speak January 24 on "Ingres in Rome." Miss Mongan was responsible for the important Ingres centennial exhibition at the Fogg in 1967. Marjorie Cohn, Assistant Conservator at the Fogg, will speak January 31 on "Ingres' Technique as a Draftsman," and Robert A. Rosenblum, Professor of Fine Arts at New York University, will discuss "The Styles

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of Ingres" on February 7. The Sunday lectures, at 4:00 p.m., are held in the National Gallery Auditorium.

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For further information contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director, or Alison Luchs, Public Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565, Area Code 202, 737-4215, ext. 224.