

# EL GRECO of TOLEDO

An international exhibition

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News for immediate release

## FIRST MAJOR EL GRECO EXHIBITION TO OPEN IN MADRID IN APRIL

Toledo, Ohio, March 1, 1982 -- El Greco of Toledo, the first major international exhibition devoted to the paintings of this great master, will open at the Museo del Prado, Madrid, Spain, on April 1, 1982 and continue on display until June 6. The exhibition will then travel to the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Note: - (July 2 - September 6); The Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio (September 26 -  
New  
Opening November 21); and the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Dallas, Texas (December 12 -  
Date February 6, 1983).

El Greco of Toledo is under the high patronage of His Majesty Juan Carlos I, King of Spain, and President Ronald Reagan of the United States. It will present the largest number of paintings by El Greco ever to be assembled in one exhibition and will include works from European and North American museums, churches, and private collections. The Toledo Museum of Art, in cooperation with the Museo del Prado, Spain's national gallery; the National Gallery of Art in Washington; and the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts has organized this international exhibition. It is the first occasion when the Prado has participated in an exhibition shown both in Spain and abroad.

The exhibition has been made possible by a generous grant from the American Express Foundation. Additional support has been provided by the National

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Museo del Prado  
Paseo del Prado, Madrid 14, Spain  
April 1-June 6, 1982

National Gallery of Art  
Sixth Street and Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20565  
July 2-September 6, 1982

The Toledo Museum of Art  
Box 1013, Toledo, Ohio 43697  
September 26-November 21, 1982

Dallas Museum of Fine Arts  
Fair Park  
Dallas, Texas 75226  
December 12-February 6, 1983



Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

A stimulus for this exhibition has been new scholarship on El Greco, his work in Toledo, and on the city of Toledo itself, that supports a more factual and realistic interpretation of El Greco's work. The political, religious and literary climate in Toledo gave his art a contemporary significance, one which was previously over-shadowed by mystical and romantic interpretations.

Of the 66 paintings in the exhibition, 32 are from Spain, and few of these works have ever been on display outside of that country. Several of the works come from monasteries and churches such as the Escorial, and the Toledo and Palencia Cathedrals, where they have been for centuries. Other loans are from museums in France, Sweden, Norway, Italy, Switzerland and England. Museums from the U.S.A. to Canada lending to the exhibition include the National Gallery of Art, Washington; The Toledo Museum of Art; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Metropolitan Museum of Art; and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts; San Francisco, Cleveland, Minneapolis, Kansas City and Worcester museums, among others. Several important works are from private collections on both sides of the Atlantic.

Notable pictures from El Greco's formative years in Italy include versions of the Purification of the Temple (Minneapolis and Washington) and the Venetian-style Annunciation (Thyssen Collection, Switzerland). In Spain, part of El Greco's popular reputation was due to his highly original interpretations of devotional themes encouraged by the Catholic Church of the Counter Reformation. These include Mary Magdalene, St. Francis, St. Peter Repentant, St. Sebastian and St. Dominic, subjects well represented by several examples.



Included in the exhibition also will be examples of his monumental altarpieces. The Trinity (Prado) and Veronica's Veil (private collection, Madrid) are from his first work in Toledo after arriving in 1577, the great altar complex for Santo Domingo el Antiquo. The Annunciation, Pentecost and Baptism of Christ (all in the Prado), at over ten feet high the largest canvases to be shown, are from the high altar of the Colegio de Dona Maria de Aragon, a Madrid convent. The famous St. Martin and the Beggar and its companion Madonna and Child with Saints Angles and Martina (both National Gallery, Washington) were originally from the St. Joseph Chapel, Toledo.

As El Greco portraits are relatively little known, special attention is given to this side of his art, ranging from the strikingly realistic image of the Roman painter Giulio Clovio (Capodimonte Museum, Naples) to such celebrated works as Fray Hortensio Paravicino (Boston Museum) and other portraits of El Greco's patrons and friends eminent in the ecclesiastical and intellectual life of Toledo.

For the understanding of El Greco, the exhibition catalogue, to be published by the New York Graphic Society, is the most important book to appear in many years. The authors, leading scholars of Spanish art and history, present a new view of El Greco and of the Spain in which he worked. Two essays by Jonathan Brown of New York University Institute of Fine Arts survey modern criticism of El Greco, his life and work, and his relations with contemporaries in Toledo. An essay by Richard Kagan of John Hopkins University examines, the economic, political and theological climate of El Greco's Toledo, and identifies key personalities among his friends. Alfonso Perez Sanchez of the University of Madrid reconstructs several ambitious works. Catalogue entries on the exhibited



paintings are by William Jordan of the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, chairman of the scholars committee that has been largely responsible for the selection of the paintings. These show, in examples of the highest quality, both El Greco's stylistic development and the full range of his often highly original subjects. The catalogue will illustrate all exhibited paintings in color, as well as 128 other color and black and white illustrations. Spanish, British, German, French and Italian editions will also be published.

The installation of the exhibition will clearly articulate the times in which El Greco worked, his artistic development and the various themes which he painted. Photographs, documents and audio-visual programs will also present El Greco's Toledo, its society and institutions, and the artist's aesthetic ideals.

El Greco (1541-1614) was born Domenikos Theotokopoulos on the Mediterranean island of Crete, where he was trained in the Byzantine icon style of painting. By 1568 he was in Venice at its greatest artistic period, where he learned the Renaissance style as practiced by Titian, Tintoretto and other great masters. In 1579 he went to Rome, becoming part of the cultured circle at the Farnese court. Perhaps sensing greater opportunities outside Italy, he left for Spain in 1577, and following unsuccessful attempts to win the patronage of Philip II, he settled in Toledo, the nation's ecclesiastical capital and an intellectual center. El Greco continued to work there in the late Renaissance style known as Mannerism, his singular genius flowering in the particular climate of learning and patronage that prevailed in Toledo. The extensive body of work he did for churches, convents and private citizens ranks in conception and execution among the most brilliant accomplishments of European art.



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Black and white photographs and color transparencies are available on request.

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# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

FOURTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 511

## El Greco of Toledo

List of Paintings on View at National Gallery of Art

Annunciation, Museo del Prado, Madrid

Purification of the Temple, National Gallery, Washington

Purification of the Temple, Minneapolis Institute of Art

Boy Lighting a Candle, private collection

Fable, Stanley Moss, New York

Annunciation, Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection, Lugano

Trinity, Museo del Prado, Madrid

Mary Magdalen in Penitence, Worcester Art Museum

Saint Sebastian, Cathedral, Palencia

Allegory of the Holy League, El Escorial, Madrid

Disrobing of Christ, Stanley Moss, New York

Mary Magdalen in Penitence, Nelson Gallery-Atkins Museum, Kansas City

Madonna and Sleeping Christ Child with Saint Anne and the Infant  
Baptist, Museo de Santa Cruz, Toledo

Pietà, Stavros Spyros Niarchos, London

Saint Dominic in Prayer, Placido Arango, Madrid

Saint Louis of France, Louvre, Paris

Mary Magdalen in Penitence with the Crucifix, Museo Cau Ferrat, Sitges

Saint Francis in Meditation, Torello Collection, Barcelona

Agony in the Garden, The Toledo Museum of Art



Christ Carrying the Cross, Cintas Foundation, New York

Saint Andrew and Saint Francis, Museo del Prado, Madrid

Holy Family with Saint Anne, Hospital de San Juan  
Bautista, Toledo

Holy Family with the Sleeping Christ Child and the Infant  
Baptist, National Gallery, Washington

Allegory of the Camaldolite Order, Instituto de Valencia  
de Don Juan, Madrid

Saint Joseph and the Christ Child, Museo de Santa Cruz, Toledo

Saint Martin and the Beggar, National Gallery, Washington

Madonna and Child with Saint Martina and Saint Anne,  
National Gallery, Washington

Annunciation, Museo Balaguer, Villanueva y Geltru

Baptism of Christ, Museo del Prado, Madrid

Pentecost, Museo del Prado, Madrid

View of Toledo, The Metropolitan Museum, New York

Saint Sebastian, private collection

Saint John the Baptist, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

Saint Bernardino, Museo del Greco, Toledo

Saint Jerome as Cardinal, The Metropolitan Museum, Lehman  
Collection, New York

Nativity, Hospital de la Caridad, Illescas

Saint Ildefonso, National Gallery, Washington

Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Nationalmuseum, Stockholm



Saint John the Evangelist, Toledo Cathedral

Saint Luke, Toledo Cathedral

Saviour, Museo del Greco, Toledo

Saint Bartholomew, Museo del Greco, Toledo

Saint Peter in Tears, Nasjonalgalleriet, Oslo

Visitation, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington

Saint Ildefonso, El Escorial, Madrid

Saint Jerome in Penitence, National Gallery, Washington

Laocoön, National Gallery, Washington

Giulio Clovio, Museo e Gallerie Nazionale di Capodimonte, Naples

Gentleman of the House of Leiva (?), Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

Elderly Gentleman, Museo del Prado, Madrid

Lady with a Flower in her Hair, private collection

Antonio de Covarrubias, Louvre, Paris

Diego de Covarrubias, Museo del Greco, Toledo

Fray Hortensio Félix Paravicino, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Jeronimo de Cevallos, Museo del Prado, Madrid

Cardinal Juan de Tavera, Hospital de San Juan Bautista, Toledo

Giacomo Bosio, Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth

Vite De Piu Eccellsuti Architetti, Pittori, e Scultori Italiani  
by Giorgio Vasari, with notes by El Greco, private collection

Ten Books of Architecture by Vitruvius, Biblioteca National,  
Madrid



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Dear Friend,

The exhibition El Greco of Toledo is the result of an unprecedented international collaborative effort involving arts organizations, collectors, government agencies and a major corporation.

This momentous undertaking was inspired by a new interpretation of El Greco's art, based upon years of research. The exhibition provides the opportunity for people in Spain and across the U.S. to share in this scholarly exploration and to see El Greco's work in a new light.

The highest endorsement of our achievement comes from the King of Spain, His Majesty Juan Carlos I, and the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, both of whom have conferred their high patronage on the exhibition.

Cooperation at all levels of the Spanish and American governments, including their embassies, has been of inestimable help in achieving the success of this exhibition. I would particularly like to cite the Spanish Ministry of Culture for their tireless assistance on all details of the exhibition.

In the United States, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Express Foundation have demonstrated what can be achieved through the combined efforts of government and corporate support of the arts. Without their exceptional cooperation and support, a decade of research and hard work could not have resulted in this important exhibition and its international tour.

I hope in your coverage of the exhibition that you will give credit to all of the above, whose contributions have made El Greco of Toledo a success.

Sincerely,

  
Roger Mandle

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## FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION: EL GRECO OF TOLEDO: AN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

ITINERARY: National Gallery of Art - July 2-Sept. 6, 1982  
The Toledo Museum of Art - Sept. 26-Nov. 21, 1982  
Dallas Museum of Fine Arts - Dec. 12-Feb. 6, 1983

Premiere: Museo del Prado, Madrid - April 1-June 6, 1982

COORDINATING MUSEUM: The Toledo Museum of Art, Roger Mandle, Director

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: Roger Mandle, Director, The Toledo Museum of Art  
J. Carter Brown, Director, National Gallery of Art  
Harry S. Parker, Director, Dallas Museum of Fine Arts

SCHOLARS COMMITTEE: Jose M. Pita-Andrade, Comisario of the Exhibition for the Museo del Prado  
Alfonso Perez-Sanchez, Subcomisario of the Exhibition for the Museo del Prado  
William Jordan, Deputy Director, Kimball Art Museum, Texas  
Jonathan Brown, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University  
Richard Kagan, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

SPONSORED BY: The American Express Foundation  
The National Endowment for the Humanities  
The National Endowment for the Arts

The American Express Foundation is supported by grants from the American Express Travel Related Services Company, Inc., American Express International Banking Corporation, Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, and Shearson/American Express, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: The exhibition of approximately 60 paintings by Domenikos Theotokopoulos, El Greco, (1541-1614) proposes a new understanding of the artist's work within the artistic,

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social, religious, and literary milieu of Toledo, and in the broader context of Spain at the turn of the 17th Century. This first major retrospective loan show of paintings is organized around humanistic themes which have emerged recently from research on the relationship of El Greco's art to key ideas of his time.

The exhibition also includes two books -- Vasari's "Lives of the Artists" and Vitruvius' "Four Books on Architecture" -- with annotations in El Greco's hand. These annotations provide the only first hand knowledge of El Greco's thoughts on the arts, and also serve as the basis of the new scholarship around which the exhibition has been organized.

FILM:

"El Greco: Spirit of Toledo" is a one-hour docu-drama produced in conjunction with the exhibition. Shot on location in Toledo, Spain, with a script based on El Greco's writings, the film dramatically portrays the painter's life. "El Greco: Spirit of Toledo" is narrated by David Thomson, former art critic of The Times of London. The film is produced by RM Productions and TFI in association with Mitchell Beazley Television; and is directed by Yvon Gerault. "El Greco: Spirit of Toledo" has been made possible by a grant from the American Express Foundation.

The film is scheduled to be aired in the East Building Auditorium on a daily basis throughout the run of the exhibition. For further information, please call: (202)842-6246.

CATALOG:

A fully illustrated 272 page catalog, published by the New York Graphic Society with essays and text by Jonathan Brown, Richard Kagan, Alfonso Perez-Sanchez, and William Jordan. The catalog contains 77 color plates and 185 black and white illustrations, and includes color reproductions of all works in the exhibition. Published catalogues include English, Spanish, and German editions.

AUDIO VISUAL:

A 7½ minute audio-visual presentation, prepared by the National Gallery of Art, provides an overview of El Greco's life and work and serves as an introduction to the exhibition.

SPECIAL LECTURES:

Lectures will be held in the East Building Auditorium of the National Gallery of Art and are free to the public.

June 27  
4:00 P.M.

"The City of Toledo"  
Richard Kagan, Johns Hopkins  
University



July 4  
4:00 P.M.

"El Greco and the Phenomenon of His  
Success in Toledo"  
William Jordan, Kimball Art Museum

Any group of 15 or more may request a special tour of the  
exhibition. For further information, please call:  
(202)842-6246.

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