

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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DRAWINGS BY REMBRANDT, HIS CONTEMPORARIES
MARK NETHERLANDS-UNITED STATES BICENTENNIAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. March 23, 1982. Dutch Figure Drawings from the Seventeenth Century, a loan exhibition of works by Rembrandt van Rijn, Hendrick Goltzius, Willem Buytewech, Jacob de Gheyn and their contemporaries, opens April 11 in the National Gallery of Art's East Building. The exhibition will remain on view through June 13.

Organized by the print room of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam in conjunction with the National Gallery, the exhibition is one of a number of events celebrating the bicentennial of diplomatic relations between the United States and The Netherlands.

Demonstrating the full range of media used by Dutch draftsmen of the time, the exhibition presents 117 watercolors and drawings in graphite, oiled charcoal, chalks and inks of several colors on papers richly varied in color and texture.

Many independent, finished works of art, among them Rembrandt's Self-Portrait Full Length and Saskia Sleeping in Bed, are included.

Also on view are preliminary and preparatory studies for later use in paintings and prints, as well as sheets of sketches apparently done for the sheer joy of the craft.

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In addition to fifteen works by Rembrandt, four by Buytewech, three by Goltzius and two by de Gheyn, the exhibition offers major drawings by artists less well known in the United States. Among them are Cornelis Dusart's Sitting Boy with Book, Jacob van Loo's Female Card Player and Adriaen van de Velde's Sitting Woman with Child.

Peter Schatborn, curator of drawings at the Rijksmuseum, selected 100 drawings for the exhibition, which was on view at the Rijksmuseum earlier this year. In collaboration with Mr. Schatborn, Andrew Robison, curator of prints and drawings at the National Gallery, and Arthur K. Wheelock, Jr., curator of Dutch painting, chose nineteen additional works, including one painting and one print, for the exhibition at the National Gallery.

In addition to more than fifty examples from the print room of the Rijksmuseum and a selection from the National Gallery, the exhibition offers works lent from the Teylers Museum, Haarlem; the Rembrandthuis and the Amsterdams Historisch Museum, Amsterdam; the Pretenkabinet der Rijksuniversiteit, Leiden; the Museum Boymans-van Beuningen, Rotterdam; the Institut Néerlandais, Paris; The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; and The Art Institute of Chicago, as well as private collections in Europe and the United States.

The accompanying catalogue contains essays and entries by Mr. Schatborn, and color and black-and-white illustrations. Publication of the catalogue is supported in part by a grant

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from the Cultural Affairs and Information Bureau of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On Sunday, April 11, Mr. Schatborn will discuss the exhibition in a lecture entitled "Dutch Figure Drawings from the Seventeenth Century." The lecture, which is open to the public at no charge, will be given at 4 p.m. in the East Building auditorium.

Dutch Figure Drawings from the Seventeenth Century is the first of two exhibitions devoted to Dutch seventeenth-century art opening at the National Gallery in April. On April 23, Mauritshuis: Dutch Paintings of the Golden Age from the Royal Picture Gallery, The Hague will go on view, offering superb paintings created by artists of the same period.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director (Information Officer) or Mary Dyer, Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C. 20565, area code 202, 842-6353.