

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOHN WILMERDING NAMED SUCCESSOR TO
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AS OF FEBRUARY 1

WASHINGTON, D.C. MAY 13, 1982. J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery of Art, today announced the appointment of John Wilmerding to succeed Charles Parkhurst, Assistant Director. Mr. Parkhurst came to the Gallery in 1971 and is retiring January 31, 1983.

Mr. Wilmerding will exercise the responsibilities of the Director in his absence and act at all other times as his overall deputy, having charge of all works of art and their related activities involving more than twenty departments.

Mr. Wilmerding, Senior Curator and Curator of American Art, joined the National Gallery in his present capacity in 1977. He has been involved in a number of major acquisitions for the Gallery--among them, the Stuart portraits of Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe--and has organized several important exhibitions, including "American Light" in 1979, which was highly acclaimed by critics, scholars, and the public.

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His forthcoming exhibitions include one marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of American painter George Bellows with his pictures of prize fights, for which the artist is best remembered, and a comprehensive exhibition of the work of the 19th-century American still life painter, John F. Peto. In conjunction with the latter, the National Gallery will be publishing Mr. Wilmerding's recently completed monograph, Important Information Inside: The Art of John F. Peto and the Idea of Still Life Painting in Nineteenth Century America.

Mr. Wilmerding is widely known as the author of fourteen books since 1964, principally on American art and including the American volume in the renowned Pelican series on the history of world art. He has, in addition, produced seventeen exhibition catalogues and written more than fifty articles and book reviews. He is also on the editorial board of the American Art Journal.

He is currently vice president of the Shelburne Museum in Vermont and the Dunlap Society; a trustee of Monticello, the Lewis Walpole Library, Groton School and the St. Gaudens National Historic Site in New Hampshire; honorary curator of paintings of the Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts; and an advisor to Wellesley College, the Internal Revenue Service, the Archives of American Art, the Department of State and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

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After graduation from St. Paul's School in 1956, Mr. Wilmerding went to Harvard, where he received his undergraduate and post-graduate degrees. After taking his Ph.D. in 1965, he went to Dartmouth College where he taught, chaired both the art department and the humanities division, and held the Leon E. Williams professorship until he came to the National Gallery. He has also been a visiting professor at Yale, Harvard, the University of Maryland and the University of Delaware.

Mr. Wilmerding was born April 28, 1938 in Boston. He is the grandson of Electra Havemeyer Webb, founder of the Shelburne Museum, which is devoted primarily to the field of early American folk arts.

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