

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

FOURTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215/842-6353

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS
OF NINETEENTH-CENTURY FRANCE
AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

WASHINGTON, D.C. August 24, 1982. Visions of City and Country, an exhibition opening October 10 in the National Gallery of Art's East Building, traces the evolution of the developing approach to landscape in nineteenth-century France. Pierre Bonnard, Charles François Daubigny, Eugène Isabey, Édouard Manet, Jean François Millet, Paul Signac, and Édouard Vuillard are among the artists whose works will be on view until December 5, 1982.

Drawn from public and private collections in France, Canada, and the United States, the 146 prints and photographs are presented in three sections. Lithographs and prints from Voyages pittoresques et romantiques dans l'ancienne France form the nucleus of works in the first category, "The Explorations of France." They illustrate the artists' discovery of France in the 1820s as they turned from the landscape of Italy to the picturesque buildings, ancient ruins, and landscapes of the French provinces.

(more)

The second section, "The Urban Maelstrom and the Pastoral Oasis," reflects the artists' visions of the city as a center of modern corruption and the country as a peaceful refuge. Paris in the 1830s and 1840s was viewed as an alarming spectacle of poverty, disease, and social upheaval and the countryside was idealized as a retreat from these urban ills.

Finally, "The Marriage of the City and Country," documents Napoleon III's urban planning, which resulted in great public parks and spacious tree-lined boulevards to relieve the density of Paris.

The exhibition has been organized by the Worcester Art Museum and the American Federation of Arts. Funding for the project was provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Guest curators, Dr. Bonnie L. Grad, Assistant Professor of Art History at Clark University, and Dr. Timothy A. Riggs, Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Worcester Art Museum, have written a fully illustrated catalogue which presents new research on the history of nineteenth-century French landscape art in conjunction with the literature and history of the time.

The exhibition is being coordinated for the Gallery by Virginia Tuttle. It is being installed by Gordon Anson of the Gallery's Design and Installation Department, headed by Gaillard Ravenel, in consultation with the Gallery's Graphic Arts Department and the guest curators.

(more)

The exhibition will subsequently will be on view at the Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts (December 19, 1982 - February 3, 1983) and the Ackland Art Museum of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina (March 6 - April 10, 1983). The exhibition immediately precedes Manet and Modern Paris, organized by the National Gallery of Art and shown exclusively here, to mark the anniversary of Édouard Manet's death.

END

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