

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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AGREEMENT REACHED ON MEYERHOFF COLLECTION OF ART

WASHINGTON - J. Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that Robert E. and Jane B. Meyerhoff, of Phoenix, Maryland, have signed an agreement with the Trustees of the National Gallery concerning the future donation of their extensive and growing collection of 20th-century art to the Gallery.

The Meyerhoff collection consists of close to 100 major American and European paintings, as well as more than 100 drawings, prints and sculptures, all dating from World War II to the present. Since the collection was initiated in the 1950s, it has developed particularly strong concentrations of the work of five American artists of the postwar second generation: Jasper Johns, Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Rauschenberg and Frank Stella. It contains, as well, outstanding paintings by the American abstract expressionist artists Willem de Kooning, Hans Hofmann, Franz Kline, Jackson Pollock, Ad Reinhardt, Mark Rothko and Clyfford Still, along with Eric Fischl, Brice Marden and David Salle, of the younger generation.

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Brown said: "We are absolutely delighted to have agreed upon a detailed long-range plan for the ultimate disposition of one of the most important private collections in the world of the art of the last 50 years. The galleries that the Meyerhoffs have constructed on their property near Phoenix, MD, are among the most beautiful I know for the display of modern art."

The plan agreed to by the Meyerhoffs and the Trustees of the National Gallery envisions that a foundation will operate the Meyerhoffs' galleries in the Maryland countryside and that their collection will be displayed for the public both in that facility and at the National Gallery in Washington.

Last October a generous donation from Robert and Jane Meyerhoff enabled the National Gallery to purchase Barnett Newman's landmark series of paintings, The Stations of the Cross -- Lema Sabachthani (1958-66), which are on display in the East Building of the Gallery.

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