

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL GALLERY HOLDS SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTE **FOCUSING ON MYTHOLOGY IN ART, MUSIC, AND LITERATURE**

Washington, D.C. -- The National Gallery of Art begins its ninth annual summer Teacher Institute, a six-day interdisciplinary art program designed for educators of all subjects and administrators, K-12, from across the country. The program is made possible in part by grants from the GE Fund, the Weingart Foundation, The Circle of the National Gallery of Art, the Rhode Island Foundation, and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Additional support is provided by the William Randolph Hearst Endowed Fund for the Teacher Institute. These grants in part provide fellowships for educators who otherwise might not participate due to the expenses of travel and lodging.

"Thanks to continuing private support, the Gallery is able to provide this much-needed training for teachers," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art. "We hope this summer's Teacher Institute will convey new ideas about how art can inform and educate children of all ages, helping them to relate to the world's civilizations and cultures."

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The 1997 program concentrates on the mythology of the ancient Greeks and Romans through an exploration of the permanent collections of the National Gallery of Art. It also examines myths from African, Native American, and Asian cultures. Teachers will explore these myths through slide lectures, gallery tours, teaching methodology sessions, and connections to the humanities, including language arts and music. Site visits will include tours of the Asian art collections of the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, and the permanent collections of the National Museum of African Art.

The Teacher Institute provides information about art and its meaning in cultures through the ages and demonstrates teaching techniques. The program's guiding philosophy is to rekindle curiosity and a love of learning while helping teachers strengthen their knowledge of art and history. Twenty-six fellows from ten different states -- from California to Rhode Island -- were selected to participate either as members of a teaching team or as individuals. The six-day program will be offered in three different sessions: July 14-19, July 28-August 2, and August 11-16.

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