

Books and Sketchbooks Reveal "A Painter's Mind: Selections from the Library of Romare Bearden" at National Gallery of Art"

Companion Exhibition to "The Art of Romare Bearden",
September 14, 2003 - January 4, 2004

Washington, DC--A Painter's Mind: Selections from the Library of Romare Bearden, a small companion exhibition to the major retrospective *The Art of Romare Bearden*, on view at the National Gallery of Art, September 14, 2003 - January 4, 2004, provides an intimate perspective on the artist's interests and influences, social and intellectual networks, and--with holes cut into some pages--the actual material of his collages.

Exhibition curator Ruth Fine and National Gallery of Art executive librarian Neal Turtell selected the 36 objects in *A Painter's Mind* from the thousands of books and journals in the artist's library, which remains intact at the Romare Bearden Foundation in New York.

The exhibition is divided into 5 sections: **Works by and about Bearden**; **Sketchbooks and Journals**; **Bearden the Composer**; **Influences on Bearden's Work**; and **Books Inscribed to Bearden**. Highlights include:

Inscriptions from friends such as writer Albert Murray ("To my good old image making buddy Romy/ some sketch pad notes for an all-American panorama"), as well as from Ralph Ellison (in his classic *Invisible Man*) and artist/teacher George Grosz;

Sketchbooks revealing diverse influences--from a detailed schematic analysis of a work by Giotto to a strong line drawing of a jazz ensemble;

Original sheet music for "Sea Breeze" (the Bearden song is included on Branford Marsalis' new CD);

A rare catalogue from an exhibition of work by the 1960s Civil Rights era Spiral group of African-American artists;

Illustrations for children's books and a volume of Derek Walcott's poems.

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General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. With the exception of the atrium and library, the galleries in the East Building will be closing gradually beginning in July 2013 and will remain closed for approximately three years for Master Facilities Plan and renovations. For specific updates on gallery closings, visit www.nga.gov/renovation (<http://www.nga.gov/renovation>) .

For information call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's website at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt and on Twitter at twitter.com/ngadc.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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