

Release Date: October 1, 2003

"The Cubist Paintings of Diego Rivera: Memory, Politics, Place" On View in Washington, Dc, and Mexico City in 2004



Diego Rivera

No. 9, Nature Morte Espagnole, 1915

oil on canvas

Gift of Katharine Graham

National Gallery of Art, Washington

© 2004 Banco de México Diego Rivera & Frida Kahlo Museums Trust

Washington, DC--An exhibition of important cubist works by renowned Mexican modernist Diego Rivera will open at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., in spring 2004. On view April 4 through July 25, 2004, **The Cubist Paintings of Diego Rivera: Memory, Politics, Place** will celebrate a significant but little-known Rivera painting of 1915, *No. 9, Nature Morte Espagnole (No. 9, Spanish Still Life)*, a recent gift to the National Gallery from the estate of **Washington Post** publisher Katharine Graham.

Organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, in collaboration with the Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, the exhibition will coincide with the Gallery's showing of the **Courty Art of the Ancient Maya** (<http://www.nga.gov/press/exh/198/index.shtm>) . The

Rivera exhibition will then travel to the Museo de Arte Moderno in Mexico City, where it will be on view from September 22, 2004, through January 16, 2005.

"We are pleased to be working with the Museo de Arte Moderno to bring a little-known aspect of Rivera's work to the public in both of our countries," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art. "We are also very grateful to Target for its continuing support of exhibitions at the National Gallery."

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

This exhibition is proudly sponsored by Target Stores as part of its commitment to arts and education.

Target previously sponsored the exhibition **Frederic Remington: The Color of Night** (2003).

"Supporting the arts is important to Target and we are pleased to continue our partnership with the National Gallery of Art through our sponsorship of the Diego Rivera exhibition," said Laysha Ward, vice president, community relations, Target Corporation. "Exposure to the arts allows people to experience different cultures, broaden their points of view and expand their creative thinking, which all help in building stronger communities."

THE EXHIBITION

Rivera's work has been studied and shown in depth, yet his cubist period remains a less understood aspect of his career. **The Cubist Paintings of Diego Rivera** will include some 20 works that demonstrate his distinctive approach to synthetic cubism--his use of complex structures of transparent planes, with a particular emphasis on sensory and memory association.

The exhibition will explore the intersection of history and the avant-garde at a key moment in the artist's development. The selection emphasizes the years 1914 and 1915, when Rivera was working in France and Spain. These works also illuminate the artist's deep engagement with themes of identity and place during a period that coincided not only with World War I but also with the most active period of the Mexican

Revolution.

Many of the works in the exhibition, such as *Zapatista Landscape* (1915), incorporate objects that serve as emblems of Mexican identity: sarapes, petates (straw mats), an equipal (reed chair), and guajes (peasant gourds). The inclusion of Mexican motifs and Rivera's frequent use of the colors of the Mexican flag present a souvenir of his native land from afar, filled with revolutionary sympathy, nostalgia, and longing.

In other key works in the exhibition, Rivera explored evocative links between objects, people, and places. Among them are such works as *Eiffel Tower* (1914), with emotionally charged references to the cities Rivera inhabited, and portraits of figures he associated with these cities, including his *Portrait of Martín Luis Guzmán* (1915). Together these paintings represent Rivera's finest cubist work and offer important meditations on self-identity and nationalism.

CURATORS

The exhibition is organized by Leah Dickerman, associate curator, modern and contemporary art, National Gallery of Art, in consultation with Luis-Martín Lozano, director, Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City. The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated brochure.

###

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:

Press Office

National Gallery of Art

2000B South Club Drive

Landover, MD 20785

phone: (202) 842-6353 e-mail: pressinfo@nga.gov

Deborah Ziska

Chief of Press and Public Information

(202) 842-6353

ds-ziska@nga.gov