OPENING EXHIBITION

James McNeill Whistler
May 28 through August 20, 1995
West Building, main floor galleries 72 through 79

The most important gathering of art by renowned American expatriate James McNeill Whistler since the memorial exhibitions of his work in 1904–1905 will come to the National Gallery of Art, Washington, after critically acclaimed showings in London and Paris. The National Gallery of Art is the only U.S. venue for the exhibition. This historic presentation of 200 paintings, watercolors, pastels, and prints from public and private collections on both sides of the Atlantic will illustrate why Whistler was one of the most influential figures in the visual arts of the late nineteenth century.

The exhibition surveys every aspect of Whistler’s career: his early realistic seascapes and genre scenes, innovative experiments with Japanese motifs of the mid-1880s, beautifully restrained and elegant portraits of the early 1870s, decorative designs associated with the rise of the aesthetic movement, the famous noirettes and Venetian pastels, and intimate sketches of shop fronts, seascapes, and female nudes of the 1880s and 1890s.

Among the paintings in the show are Nocturne in Black and Gold: The Falling Rocket (1875), which nineteenth-century artist and critic John Ruskin derided as “a pot of paint” flung in the public’s face, and Arrangement in Gray and Black: Portrait of the Painter’s Mother (1871), perhaps the best-known American portrait.

James McNeill Whistler is organized as a collaboration of the Tate Gallery, London; the Réunion des musées nationaux, Paris; and the Musée d’Orsay, Paris; and the National Gallery of Art, Washington.

The exhibition is made possible by a generous grant from NYNEX Foundation. It is also supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.
exhibitions

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

The Touch of the Artist: Master Drawings from the Woodner Family Collection
October 7, 1995, through January 28, 1996

A Great Heritage: Renaissance and Baroque Drawings from Chatsworth
October 6, 1995, through December 31, 1995

John Singleton Copley in England
October 6, 1995, through January 31, 1996

Winslow Homer
October 3, 1995, through January 31, 1996

Johannes Vermeer
November 3, 1995, through February 11, 1996

Publications
Exhibition Catalogues
Arshile Gorky: The Breakthrough Years
May 7 through September 27, 1995
Johannes Vermeer, 1632-1675
November 12, 1995, through February 11, 1996
Claes Oldenburg: An Anthology
Through May 7, 1995

OPENING EXHIBITION

Arshile Gorky: The Breakthrough Years
May 7 through September 27, 1995

East Building, mezzanine

The first exhibition to examine in depth the mature work of the Armenian-born American painter Arshile Gorky (1904-1948) contains approximately 40 paintings and drawings. The show, which documents Gorky's pivotal role as a link between European surrealism and American abstract expressionism, opens with a painting from his famous series Garden in Sochi (1940-1943). Other important works include the Tate Gallery's Riverbed (1943) and the National Gallery of Art's One Year in the Midlands (1940), which demonstrate how Gorky translated surrealistic biomorphism into a personal idiom of hybrid forms that he described through rich veils of luminous color. Among the highlights will be The Liver is the Cock's Comb (1946), Gorky's large, imagined painting from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, which is rarely allowed to travel. A number of key drawings will trace Gorky's complex working methods throughout the 1940s. The exhibition is organized by the Whitney Museum of American Art in cooperation with the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, and the National Gallery of Art, Washington.

The exhibition and catalogue are supported by a grant from The Henry Luce Foundation, with additional funding from the T. J. Norcross and C. A. Lupton Foundations, Five Lamps.

CLOSING EXHIBITION

Claes Oldenburg: An Anthology
Through May 7, 1995

East Building, mezzanine and upper levels

This major exhibition since 1969 to survey the art of Claes Oldenburg closes this month. Approximately 100 of the most important sculptures, drawings and paintings from 1958 to the present document the career of this versatile and remarkably prolific artist.

On display are examples of his well-known "hard," "soft," and "gloom" sculptures of food, household objects, and food-related items created from 1958 to the present. Wood, cardboard, and felt are just around the corner. Remember the special people in your life with exquisitely crafted jewelry from the Gallery Shops. Starting at $12.00, the pins, necklaces, earrings, bracelets, cuff links, and other items are adapted from designs, jewelry, and clothing ornamentation in works of art from the National Gallery of Art's collection.

Worldly goods in the Art of Arshile Gorky

Arshile Gorky, the Breakthrough Years
The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, the Noguchi Museum, New York, and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., 1995

Claes Oldenburg, Giant Salt-Cellar Drum Set, 1967, Collection of Kohnke and John Powers

Restaurant Highlights

See hours on page 7

TERRACE CAFE
Come to the Terrace Cafe for a light, quick lunch overlooking the Mall and the Calder mobile. For reservations call (202) 789-2500

CAFE/BUFFET
Enjoy a continental breakfast served Monday-Saturday, 10:00 to 11:00, and Sunday, 10:00 to 12:00 or come for lunch after 11:00

Garden Cafe
Paninis and gourmet coffee are served Monday-Saturday, 10:00 to 11:15. "Pasta Made-to-Order" is featured Sundays before concerts, 4:00 to 6:00. For reservations call (202) 789-3302

Cascade Espresso Bar
Take an afternoon break next to the cascade fountain. Choose from gourmet coffee, espresso, and cappuccino, and other refreshments, plus an array of desserts and light dishes.

Gallery Shops
Mother's Day and graduations are just around the corner.

a unique gift that will please any collector. Remember the special people in your life with exquisitely crafted jewelry from the Gallery Shops. Starting at $12.00, the pins, necklaces, earrings, bracelets, cuff links, and other items are adapted from designs, jewelry, and clothing ornamentation in works of art from the National Gallery of Art’s collection.

Restaurant Highlights

See hours on page 7
A two-day public symposium jointly sponsored by the National Gallery of Art and the National Permit Gallery on the life and art of James McNeill Whistler.

Part I: Whistler and His World

National Permit Gallery Friday, May 26, 1977 11:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Reservations are required.

“Renaissance Art in Italy: Painting, Sculpture, and Prints” by Richard Long (60 minutes).

“Thornton’s Influence on Contemporary Artists” by Eric Denker (50 minutes).

“Renaissance Art in Italy: Painting, Sculpture, and Prints” by Richard Long (60 minutes).

No reservations are required.

“Votive Offerings in the Sixteenth Century” by Salvador Dali (60 minutes).

“Thornton’s Influence on Contemporary Artists” by Eric Denker (50 minutes).

Topics will include Whistler’s relationship to photography, Japanese art, interior decoration, and exhibitions design as well as his relationship to contemporary artists and illustrators.

Film: “Modern Art: The Story of the Century” by Salvador Dali (60 minutes).

J. Russell Sale, lecturer. May 2, 6, 7, 10, and 12 at noon (wb). May 10, 16, and 23 at 1:00 (wb).

Mary Cassatt, 1844-1926 (50 minutes).

The lecture and tours of objects in the National Gallery of Art’s collections. Unless otherwise noted, tours are given Wednesdays and Saturdays 10:15 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., and Sundays at 4:00 p.m.

J. Russell Sale, lecturer. May 5, 7, 8, 10, and 15 at noon (wb). May 10, 16, and 23 at 1:00 (wb).

Alicia Walker, intern, National Gallery of Art staff. (20 minutes). Faya Causey, acting curator. May 30 at 1:00 (wb).

Renaissance Art in Italy: Painting, Sculpture, and Prints. May 25 and 26 at 1:00; May 28 and 30 at 2:00; and June 1 at 1:00 (wb). May 16, 17, 19, 20, 25, and 31 at 1:00 (wb).

Saturday, June 3

A special curriculum for children, sponsored by the National Gallery of Art, is available for children ages 4-6. 

Sunday Lectures

Film: “Looking Back at ‘Two Women at a Window’ by John Clare Whistler.” Special Lecture Series (50 minutes). Faya Causey, acting curator.

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Film: “Thematic Contrast: Old Master and American Art” by Paul Cezanne, 1839-1906 (60 minutes).

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programs

Special Program
Perspectives on the Permanent Collection
Sunday, May 15
East Building auditorium
10:00-11:00
Four distinguished scholars who have published extensively on feminism and art history will participate in an afternoon program focusing on works in the National Gallery of Art’s permanent collection. No reservations are required. Limited seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
Mary Carpenter, The Artist and Her Contemporaries, Linda Norden, Lil Acheton-Walker, Professor of Modern Art, and Ambrose Croese, Curator of American Art, National Gallery of Art.

Guided Tours
Introductory Tours
Introduction: The West Building Collections
Monday-Saturday 10:30 and 12:30 and 2:30
West Building Rotunda
Two groups of ten (no reservations necessary.
Introduction: The East Building Collections
Monday-Saturday 10:30 and 12:30 and 2:30
East Building Rotunda
Artists, museums, and institutions

Tour Highlights
Saturday, May 15
West Building Collections: Impressionists and Post-Impressionists
Touring the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Galleries, visitors will have the opportunity to see a range of works by artists such as Vincent van Gogh, Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, Paul Cézanne, and Pierre-Auguste Renoir. The tour will include a discussion of the Impressionist movement and its impact on modern art.

East Building Collections: European Paintings
This tour will highlight the European paintings collection, including works by masters such as Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Gainsborough. The tour will include a discussion of the history and significance of these works within the context of European art history.

Recent Acquisitions
Sunday, May 16
West Building Collections: Recent Acquisitions
This tour will focus on the recent acquisitions in the West Building Collections, featuring works by contemporary artists such as Jenny Holzer and Anish Kapoor. The tour will include a discussion of the importance of collecting contemporary art and its impact on the art world.

Current Exhibitions
Monday, May 17
East Building Collections: Current Exhibitions
This tour will highlight the current exhibitions in the East Building Collections, including works by artists such as Andy Warhol and Jeff Koons. The tour will include a discussion of the themes and ideas explored in these exhibitions.

Tours of the permanent collection are offered on Taft and Treadwell Tuesdays. Tours of the West Building are at 10 and 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. in the Rotunda. Tours of the East Building are at 10 and 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. at the art information desk.

May 21: Introduction: the American Collection
Tour the American Collection with Susan Varley, Permanent Curator of American Art and Chief Curator, East Building. The American collection features a broad range of works by American artists, from the 18th century to the present day. This tour will highlight key works and discuss the evolution of American art over time.

May 22: Impressionists and Post-Impressionists
Tour the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Galleries with Michael Spinks, Collections Specialist, East Building. This tour will focus on the works of key figures in the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist movements, including Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh, and Pablo Picasso.

May 23: European Paintings
Tour the European Paintings Galleries with Jeanne van Heijenoort, Assistant Curator, East Building. This tour will highlight key works by European masters such as Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt, and Van Gogh, and discuss the cultural and historical context of these works.

May 24: Recent Acquisitions
Tour the recent acquisitions in the East Building Collections with Margaret O’Hara, Assistant Curator, East Building. This tour will highlight key works by contemporary artists such as Tracey Emin and Jenny Holzer, and discuss the role of collecting recent acquisitions in shaping the collection.

Current Exhibitions
Monday, May 30
East Building Collections: Current Exhibitions
This tour will highlight the current exhibitions in the East Building Collections, including works by artists such as Andy Warhol and Jeff Koons. The tour will include a discussion of the themes and ideas explored in these exhibitions.

Music at the Gallery
Sunday Concert Series
Concerts are held on Sunday evenings through May 22nd and are open to the public, free of charge. Concerts are announced in the West Building Rotunda on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 6:00. The 6th Street and Constitution Avenue entrance to the West Building remains open for those arriving between 6:00 and 7:00, and the Garden Cafe is open until 6:30. Concerts are broadcast that week after the performance on Sunday evenings at 7:00 on radio station WAMU at 89.3 FM. For further information, call (202) 842-6176.

The American Music Festival continues through May 22.

May 22
National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble
Music by Jesu, Germanus, Lawrencium, and other American composers

May 23
Idaho String Quartet

May 24
Cancionero del Sur

May 25
The Uptown String Quartet

May 26
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For general information Call (202) 737-4215
Location The Gallery is located between 3rd and 7th Streets, NW, on Constitution Avenue, two blocks north of the National Mall. The nearest Metro stops are located on 4th Street and 7th Street. The East and West Buildings are connected by an all-weather underground passage with a moving sidewalk. Entrances to the West Building are on the Mall, on Constitution Avenue at 3rd Street NW, and on 7th Street. The East Building is located at the corner of Constitution Avenue and 6th Street, NW.

For general information on services Call (202) 842-6489
Wheelchairs and strollers are available on a free-loan basis from the art information desk in the East Building and on a first-come, first-served basis from the West Building.

Access to all areas of the East Building is via an all-weather underground passage. Assistance dogs are allowed in the Gallery as defined by government code.

Audio Tours
The Gallery offers audio tours for visitors of all ages and abilities. Audio tour guides are available in English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, and Japanese. Audio tours are self-guided, allowing visitors to explore the galleries at their own pace. Audio tour stops are located on 4th Street and 7th Street. The East and West Buildings are connected by an all-weather underground passage with a moving sidewalk. Visitors to the West Building are on the Mall, on Constitution Avenue at 3rd Street NW, and on 7th Street. The East Building is located at the corner of Constitution Avenue and 6th Street, NW.

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Accessible listening devices are available on a free-loan basis from the East Building and from a self-service unit in the wall to the left of the entrance to the East Building small auditorium.

Sign language interpretation is free.

Guided Tours
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Film Programs
East Building auditorium
Listening devices are available at the art information desk for visitors with hearing impairments.

Silent Film: Lonesome
French, 1927

May 19: 2:30 p.m.

May 22: 2:30 p.m.

May 24: 2:30 p.m.

May 26: 2:30 p.m.

May 28: 2:30 p.m.

Silent Film: Lonesome
French, 1927

May 19: 2:30 p.m.

May 22: 2:30 p.m.

May 24: 2:30 p.m.

May 26: 2:30 p.m.

May 28: 2:30 p.m.

Silent Film: Lonesome
French, 1927

May 19: 2:30 p.m.

May 22: 2:30 p.m.

May 24: 2:30 p.m.

May 26: 2:30 p.m.

May 28: 2:30 p.m.
ON THE COVER:
James McNeill Whistler, At the Piano, 1858–1859, The Taft Museum, Cincinnati, Bequest of Mrs. Louise Taft Semple