exhibitions

OPENING EXHIBITION

Jan Steen: Painter and Storyteller
April 28 through August 18, 1996
West Building, main floor, galleries 72, 73, 77, and 78

Forty-eight paintings by Jan Steen (1625/26–1679) explore the exceptional range of subject and style in this Dutch artist's body of work. Although Steen is one of the most admired Dutch artists, he is also one of the least understood. A masterful painter, with a touch that ranged from a very fine to a very coarse technique, he has been primarily identified as an artist of boisterous lowlife genre scenes. Steen, nevertheless, also painted sensitive portraits, refined images of upper-class life, as well as religious and mythological scenes. Although his wry and humorous view of the world is seemingly at odds with the stolid image provided by virtually all other Dutch artists, no one has fully explored the character of his images.

There has been no major exhibition of Steen's work since a retrospective at the Royal Cabinet of Paintings, Mauritshuis, The Hague, in 1959. Jan Steen is organized by the National Gallery of Art and the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. Paintings will be drawn from both these collections, as well as from other major public and private collections in the United States and Europe.

On behalf of its employees, Shell Oil Company is proud to make possible the presentation of the celebrated works by Jan Steen to the American people.

The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities.

OPENING EXHIBITION

Scenes of Daily Life: Genre Prints from the Housebook Master to Rembrandt van Rijn
April 28 through August 18, 1996
West Building, main floor, gallery 78

This exhibition presents thirty-six Netherlandish genre prints from the National Gallery of Art's collection, dating from the late fifteenth to the late seventeenth centuries. It demonstrates that certain themes and motifs had a long life, although the character of the images was often adapted to fit the demands of changing morals, taste, or fashion. Although religious imagery dominated early printmaking, northern European printmakers also depicted profane subjects from the beginning. These scenes of everyday life include lovers courting, leisure activities, professions, and illustrations of proverbs. These appealing images were the predecessors of the genre prints that became so popular in the Netherlands in the seventeenth century. In both periods these apparently simple scenes frequently had allegorical meanings.

The selection includes prints in various techniques and illustrated books. Among the artists represented will be Israhel van Meckenem, the Master of the Housebook, Lucas van Leyden, Albrecht Dürer, Rembrandt van Rijn, and Adriaen van Ostade.
The Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Collection:
1945 to 1995
Through July 21, 1996
East Building, upper and mezzanine levels

The Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Collection is among the finest and most extensive private collections of post-World War II art in the world. It is shown almost in its entirety, with about 170 works on view. The greatest strength of the Meyerhoff Collection lies in its concentrations of works by Jasper Johns, Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Rauschenberg, and Frank Stella. With regard to these artists, the collection is visually unparalleled in breadth and quality. The exhibition includes Johns’ Primavera Night (1988) and Spring (1988), Kelly’s Dark Gray and White Panel (1977–1979), and Red Carne (1986–1988); Lichtenstein’s Cear Trépan (1974) and Robinson at Arles (1970); Rauschenberg’s Bpipe (1990) and Carmeno Caro (1980), and Stella’s Mephi de Portage (1970) and Midkina Ay (1980).

In addition, the collection highlights masterpieces of the New York school, including paintings by Willem de Kooning, Grace Hartigan, Hans Hofmann, Franz Kline, Jackson Pollock, Ad Reinhardt, Mark Rothko, and Clifford Still, along with the extraordinary Sewer of the City (1926–1966) by Barnett Newman. Other high points in the exhibition are major works by Jean Dubuffet, Robert Rauschenberg, and Stella’s Triptych (1974–1978) and Bedroom at Mellieha Bay (1985). The Meyerhoff Collection offers a panorama of art from the second half of the twentieth century.

Visitors can design a personal tour of the collection and print it out to use as a guide in the galleries. The Micro Gallery is made possible by a major grant from the American Express Foundation.

The Micro Gallery
West Building, west floor

The National Gallery of Art’s Micro Gallery is the most comprehensive interactive, multimedia computer system in an American art museum. Visitors with little or no computer experience can use it to discover new ways to view the permanent collection and expand their appreciation of art at the result of a computer screen. Thirteen computers have been installed in the redesigned art information lounge near the West Building Mall entrance.

Visitors are able to see high-quality detail nearly every work of art on display in the permanent collection. In addition, thousands of photographs allow users to follow subjects, artists, geographic areas, time periods, a pronunciation guide with sound, and more. Visitors can design a personal tour of the collection and print it out to use as a guide in the galleries.

MICRO GALLERY

FEATURES FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

The Robert and Jane
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### Calendar

**APRIL**

#### Tuesdays
- **11:00** Library Talk: Edgar Degas (wbgc)
- **1:30** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)
- **2:30** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)
- **3:30** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)

#### Wednesdays
- **11:00** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)
- **1:30** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)
- **2:30** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)
- **3:30** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)

#### Thursdays
- **11:00** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)
- **1:30** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)
- **2:30** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)
- **3:30** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)

#### Fridays
- **11:00** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)
- **1:30** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)
- **2:30** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)
- **3:30** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)

#### Saturdays
- **10:30** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)
- **12:00** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)
- **2:00** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)
- **3:00** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)

#### Sundays
- **10:30** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)
- **12:00** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)
- **2:00** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)
- **4:00** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)

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#### Library Talks

**TUESDAY, APRIL 3**
**11:00** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4**
**11:00** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 5**
**11:00** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 6**
**11:00** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 7**
**10:30** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 8**
**10:30** Library Talk: Degas (wbgc)

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### Programs

#### Lectures

**Sunday Lectures**
Lectures are given by National Gallery of Art staff and distinguished scholars at 4:30 in the East Building auditorium.

**April 8**
- *A Print Reception* by Philip Lemon, Lecture April 20 and 26 at 10:15 and April 22 and 28 at 10:15

**April 15**

**April 22**

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#### Music at the Gallery

**Sunday Concert Series**
Concerts take place at 7:00 Sunday evenings through June 30 and are open to the public, free of charge.

**April 8**
- *Evanston Wind Ensemble* Directed by Thomas Hinton, Lecture April 23 and 29 at 10:15

**April 15**
- *National Symphony Orchestra* Directed by Michael Tilson Thomas, Lecture April 30 at 10:15

**April 22**
- *National Symphony Orchestra* Directed by Louis Langree, Lecture April 29 at 10:15

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### Special Exhibitions

**The Art of Louis-Leopold Boilly: Modern Life in Napoleonic France**

- April 8 - June 30
- Featuring works by Louis-Leopold Boilly, the 19th-century French painter renowned for his sympathetic portraits of the everyday lives of Parisians, his works depict the city and its people in the spirit of the time. The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, *The Art of Louis-Leopold Boilly: Modern Life in Napoleonic France*, available at the National Gallery of Art. For more information, call (202) 633-1000.

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**Art of the West Garden**

- April 8 - June 30
- Featuring works by Louis-Leopold Boilly, the 19th-century French painter renowned for his sympathetic portraits of the everyday lives of Parisians, his works depict the city and its people in the spirit of the time. The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, *The Art of Louis-Leopold Boilly: Modern Life in Napoleonic France*, available at the National Gallery of Art. For more information, call (202) 633-1000.

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Litigation Tours

Introduction

Monday-Sunday 10:30 and 12:30
West Building Rotunda (m wagerday, and Monday, and Tuesday)

Museum and the Architecture

Daily 12:00–4:00
West Building Rotunda

Foreign Languages Tours

Foreign language tours of the permanent

Galleries are offered on Tuesday and Thursday. Tours of the

West Building are at 10 a.m. and begin in the Rotunda. Tours of the

East Building are at 2:00 and begin in the Rotunda.

Film Programs

East Building auditorium

Listening devices are available at

the information desk for visitors with hearing impairments.

Screening is limited and is on a first-come-first-served basis.

In association with the exhibition of photographs by Harry Callahan,

a video that includes excerpts from Callahan’s original motion-picture

footage. In Chicago the film will be shown April 17 through 21.

Les Enfants de Lumière

In association with the exhibition of Photography, the National Gallery of Art is pleased to present the Washington

program inspired by Le Petit Journal de la Rue de Vesle. This program is the first of a series of films that will be presented in

April 1996.

Romeda

On Saturday, April 12, 1996, lawyer, director, and composer Pierre

Jean-Jacques Anneau will present the recently restored silent film

Les Enfants de Lumière. This program is the first of a series of films that will be presented in

April 1996.

Skylight Replacement

Selected Indian paintings and sculptures are being relocated from

spaces on the second floor of the East Building to make way for the

2001–2002 exhibitions, including:


Directed by William Wyler

(1950, 122 minutes); April 17–20 at 6:00.

April 1995–1996: "Kazan"

(Continued)

"The Merry Widow"

(1934, 84 minutes); April 27–30 at

3:00.

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National Gallery of Art
Washington, DC 20565

Delivery may be delayed by bulk-rate mailing.

ON THE COVER:
Frank Stella, Mellieha Bay, 1983,
Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Collection,
Phoenix, Maryland

April 1996