Augustus Saint-Gaudens’ Memorial to Robert Gould Shaw and the Massachusetts Fifty-fourth Regiment

Through December 14, 1997
West Building, main floor, gallery 66

One of the greatest works of nineteenth-century American sculpture has come to the Gallery on a ten-year-renewable loan from the National Park Service, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, Cornish, New Hampshire. Created by Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848–1907), the relief depicts Colonel Shaw and the first African American infantry unit from the North to fight for the Union during the Civil War.

The bronze version of the Shaw Memorial has been on display on Boston Common since 1897. The artist exhibited a plaster version of this memorial in 1900, which had been on display since 1939 in an outdoor pavilion at the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site. It was restored in Boston before coming to the Gallery. The sculpture, which measures nearly fifteen feet high, eighteen feet wide, and three feet deep, is shown with rare early plaster sketches for the memorial.

The exhibition will remain on view until December 14, when the West Building’s American galleries will close for skylight replacement. The sculpture will return to public view in the fall of 1998.

The exhibition is organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington. The Shaw Memorial Project is made possible by the generous support of The Circle of the National Gallery of Art. Additional support is provided by Shell Oil Company Foundation.

CONTINUING EXHIBITION

Lorenzo Lotto: Rediscovered Master of the Renaissance

Through March 1, 1998
West Building, main floor galleries

This is the first exhibition devoted to Lorenzo Lotto (c. 1480–1556) to be held in the United States, and it presents forty-nine works, including portraits, allegories, and religious paintings.

Lotto’s portraits in the exhibition include the likeness of the antiquities collector Andrea Odoni (c. 1527), lent by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; the striking Portrait of a Lady as Lucretia (c. 1533) from London’s National Gallery; and the melancholic Portrait of a Young Man (c. 1530) from the Gallerie dell’Accademia, Venice.

Highlights of the exhibition include several works from the National Gallery’s permanent collection, including Allegory of Virtue and Vice (1505) and Allegory of Chastity (c. 1506), which demonstrate Lotto’s fondness for emblems. The depth of his religious beliefs is revealed in the intense and dramatic Christ Carrying the Cross (c. 1526) from the Louvre and the Annunciation (c. 1534–1535) from the Pinacoteca Civica in the town of Recanati. Accompanying the exhibition is a fully illustrated catalogue—see Gallery Shops.

The exhibition is organized by the National Gallery of Art, in association with the Accademia Carrara di Belle Arti, Bergamo.

United Airlines is the official carrier for this exhibition. The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.
M. C. Escher: A Centennial Tribute

Through April 26, 1998
East Building, mezzanine northeast
The National Gallery of Art is celebrating the centennial of the birth of Dutch artist Maurits Cornelis Escher (1898-1972) with an exhibition drawn entirely from the Gallery’s collection of more than 400 works by the artist. A gifted draftsman, Escher is best known for his compositions of complex interlocking shapes that resemble impossible puzzles and architectural designs that are physically impossible to construct. The exhibition is divided into four sections: “Self Portraits,” “The World Observed,” “Jesse Vacans,” and “Metamorphosis.” Among the works on view are Escher’s first known print, Escher: Father, c. 1914; his last work, Studer (1967); his last portrait of his wife, Jutte (1973); and the visual experiments that brought Escher international acclaim in the 1930s and 1940s, such as the lithograph Print Gallery (1962), and his twenty-three foot-long woodcut The Angel’s Window (1956), and his twenty-three foot-long woodcut The Angel’s Window (1956). The exhibition features eighty-five works including drawings, as illustrated books and related works on view are Escher’s first four sections: “Self Portraits,” “The World Observed,” “Jesse Vacans,” and “Metamorphosis.”

Building a Collection

Through April 19, 1998
East Building, ground level
This exhibition of one hundred sixty-five works will highlight many of the Gallery’s recent acquisitions from the Renaissance to the present, including watercolors, drawings, prints, rare illustrated books, and photographs. Building a Collection explores the many reasons why acquisitions are made, especially the variety of ways the new works relate to those already in the collection. A highlight of the show is Rembrandt’s original copperplate used to produce one of the artist’s outstanding late engravings, Eburytensins the Angel (1659).

M. C. Escher, Day and Night, 1922, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of Herbert A. Goldstone.


Madonna and Child with Saints and Angels

A detail of Madonna and Child with Saints and Angels (1473) from the Gallery’s permanent collection was dedicated in October by the U.S. Postal Service as this year’s Holiday First-Class Postage Stamp. The painting, which is on view in gallery M 14 in the West Building, was acquired by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation in 1971. The artist, Sano di Pietro (1438-1515), was the most prolific and successful of all Italian fifteenth-century painters. He was the master of large-scale workshop production in the production of small-scale devotional images.

Below the two pairs of angels, wearing floral wreaths are Saints Jerome, on the left, and Bernadine, on the right. The Virgin, who is larger in scale, illustrating her superior position in the Christian hierarchy, holds the Christ child in her arms. He in turn holds a goldfinch, which is symbolic of his future self-sacrifice for the redemption of sinners.
**Family Programs**

**M. C. Escher:** A Centennial Tribute. How Piet Mondrian explored the mystery and beauty of Thomas Mann's Landscape paintings of the American West. Families will visit the Thorne Mystery exhibition and will create a watercolor landscape. This program is offered on Saturdays, December 9 and 16 from 10:00 to 1:30. Children ages six to nine with an accompanying adult. Admission is free, but space is limited. Please register by calling (202) 737-5030.

**Holiday Festivities**

The public is invited to the yearly Holiday Celebration at the National Gallery of Art. The traditional Christmas Concert will take place at 12:00 on Sunday, December 10, in the West Garden Court of the West Building. The program will include familiar choral favorites as well as new music for the Holiday season, performed by the Columbia Collegiate Chorus under the direction of James Bridgman. The Christmas Story is a special walking tour and Gallery Talk, will be conducted on December 12, 17, and 24 at 12:00, beginning in the West Building Rotunda. Caroling in the Rotunda will take place on December 15, 18, and 25 at 1:00. Group ensembles will lead the caroling.

For your enjoyment during the month of December the Gallery Restaurants are featuring seasonal eggnog, hot cocoa, and a selection of holiday favorites from around the world.

**Family Talks**

Talks are given by Gallery staff and begin in the Rotunda of the West Building or at the ground level art information desk in the East Building.

**Focus: The Permanent Collection**

**Shadows Entertaining the Angels** by Rembrandt van Rijn (National Permanent Fund and New Century Fund) (10 minutes). Eric Deiker, lecturer. December 7, 14, and 21 at 12:00 (wb)

**Sunday Lectures**

Lectures are given by National Gallery of Art staff and distinguish members of the East Building auditorium at 1:00.

**December 7**

At the Dancey: Sensory Imagery in Nineteenth-Century American Painting. Elizabeth O’Leary, research associate, American arts department, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

**December 13**

Shadows Entertaining the Angels by Rembrandt van Rijn (National Permanent Fund and New Century Fund) (10 minutes). Eric Deiker, lecturer. December 7, 14, and 21 at 12:00 (wb)

**Monday Lectures**

Lectures are given by National Gallery of Art staff and distinguished members of the East Building. December 4, 11, and 18 at 1:00 (wb)

**Special Exhibitions**

Lecture: Lorenzo Lotto: Rediscovered Master of the Renaissance (10 minutes). Philip E. Eeonard, lecturer. December 3, 10, and 17 at 1:00. Lorenzo Lotto's Small Allegories and drawings, National Gallery of Art, are on display through January 3, 1999, and are open to the public, free of charge. Concertgoers are welcome to attend. Recorded information is available at (202) 842-6941.

**Introduction to Art**

Reading the RenaissanceAlphabets (60 minutes). Philip L. Leon. December 12 at 11:00. December 19 at 10:00

**Art History:**

Introductory Art

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Introduction to Art

Reading the Renaissance Alphabets (60 minutes). Philip L. Leon. December 12 at 11:00. December 19 at 10:00

**Art History:**

Artists’ Choices (50 minutes). Eric Deiker, lecturer. December 9 and 16 at 12:00 (wb)

**Radio Program**

The World as National Gallery of Art will broadcast throughout the upcoming holiday season on WETA-FM, 90.5. The program, hosted by Barbara Templeton, will air Monday-Saturday 3:00-11:00 a.m. (eastern time) on WETA-FM. Recorded information is available at (202) 842-6941.

**Sunday Concerts**

Concerts take place at 7:00 pm on Sunday evenings through January 3rd, 1999, and are open to the public, free of charge. Concertgoers are admitted to the West Garden Court 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 Café is open until 8:00. Recorded information is available at (202) 842-6941.

**November 29**

Gallica: A Centennial Tribute. Retha Fine, curator, modern prints and drawings, National Gallery of Art

**Sunday, December 13, 1998**

Highlights of the Gallery’s 1996-97 season award is broadcast through the end of January 1998. December highlights include the upcoming season awards, a selection of Thomas Mann’s landscape works, the work of Wilhelm Lehmbruck, and a discussion of upcoming films at the Gallery. This program is made possible by The Circle of the National Gallery of Art.

**Wednesday, December 16, 1998**

Bartok: Blue Dith of Venus. Charles Loewe, conductor.

**Friday, December 18, 1998**


**Saturday, December 26, 1998**


**Sunday, December 27, 1998**


**Monday, December 28, 1998**


**Tuesday, December 29, 1998**


**Wednesday, December 30, 1998**

The Massachusetts 4th Colored Infantry will be shown this month in the East Building auditorium. They achieved international prominence as a powerful portrayal of peasant life this holiday season! Adrian the Angel, directed by Earl A. Powell III, assistant director, Jacqueline Shearer, 1991, 120 minutes), December 9 at 2:00.

Special Exhibitions
Paolo and Vittorio Taviani, 1979, 115 minutes), December 10 at 4:00.

Audio Tours
For groups, call (202) 842-6176.

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ON THE COVER: