OPENING EXHIBITION

Drawing on America’s Past: Folk Art, Modernism, and the Index of American Design

November 27, 2002–March 2, 2003
West Building, central gallery

The Index of American Design was one of the most highly regarded of the 1930s New Deal art projects. Its aim was to compile and eventually publish a pictorial archive of decorative, folk, and popular arts made in America from the time of European settlement to about 1900. Each object was recorded in a meticulous watercolor rendering. This exhibition commemorates the sixtieth anniversary of the Gallery’s acquisition of the Index of American Design, and explores issues of folk art and national identity.

“Willem de Kooning: Tracing the Figure” has been organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

The national tour of the exhibition has been sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Generous support has also been provided by The Sydney Irmas Exhibition Endowment; Maria Hummer and Bob Tuttle; the National Endowment for the Arts; Genevieve and Ivan Reitman; Audrey M. Irmas; Beatrice and Philip Gersh; The Mnuchin Foundation; Betye Monell Burton.

The exhibition is generously sponsored by Mary Jo and Robert L. Kirk and supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

The exhibition was organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington.

CONTINUING EXHIBITION

Willem de Kooning: Tracing the Figure

Through January 5, 2003
East Building, concourse level

Willem de Kooning (1904–1997) was one of the great proponents of abstract expressionism, the movement that brought international acclaim to postwar American art. Bringing together more than sixty of the most beautiful works on paper that de Kooning executed between 1938 and 1955, this exhibition is the first to examine his pioneering drawings of the female form. The artist's renowned, provocative depictions of women demonstrate his ability to shift between figurative and abstract modes. De Kooning’s drawings were at the center of his artistic process throughout his lengthy and prolific career.

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CONTINUING EXHIBITION

Deceptions and Illusions: Five Centuries of Trompe l'Oeil Painting

Through March 2, 2003
East Building, upper and mezzanine levels

This exhibition constitutes the most comprehensive treatment to date of the phenomenon of trompe l’oeil—a depiction of an object, person or scene that is so lifelike, it appears to be real—and illustrates its playful and intellectual nature. Over one hundred works by masters of the genre, including Samuel van Hoogstraten, Cornelis Gisbrechts, and Louis-Leopold Boilly in Europe, as well as Charles Willson Peale, William Harnett, and John Frederick Peto in America, explore the art of trompe l’oeil from its origins in classical antiquity to its impact on twentieth-century artists, including René Magritte, Jasper Johns, and Andy Warhol.

The exhibition is generously sponsored by Mary Jo and Robert L. Kirk and supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

The exhibition was organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington.
The new West Building sculpture galleries present more than nine hundred works of art, including masterpieces of sculpture from the Middle Ages through the last thirteen and early twentieth centuries: eighteenth-century French decorative arts; and major collections of Renaissance medals and plaquettes, as well as Chinese porcelain. The opening of this suite of two galleries and a study room brings in its own close the most extensive renovation project the Gallery has undertaken in the last two decades—a project that fulfills the Gallery’s goal of providing enhanced and expanded space for its growing sculpture collections. Encouraging approximately 14,000 square feet, the new galleries occupy the entire northeast quadrant of the West Building ground floor. The project took more than four years to complete and included expansion of its Galleries, Construction renovation of six galleries and a study room, and construction of two new gallery spaces, with some 3,500 square feet added to existing exhibition area.

Highlights of the installation include Leona Basta Alberti’s bronze, Self-Portrait (c. 1581), a distinguished group of Italian Renaissance bronze statuettes, beautifully enhanced by works on loan from the Robert H. Smith Collection; Honoré Daumier’s pristine bronze sculptural rendering, including all three of his caricatures of French government officials: a selection of sculptures made by Auguste Rodin for his American patrons, among them the life-size Hellephant; and the world’s largest group of original works of mixed-media sculpture by Edgar Degas.

Installation view of one of the new sculpture galleries showcasing thirteen of the tens of thousands of Edgar Degas’ Little Dancer, Aged 14 Facing east. Photo by Nickolas G. O. 2002 National Gallery of Art

New Permanent Collections

An Artist’s Artists: Jacob Kainen’s Collection from Rembrandt to David Smith

Through February 2, 2003

West Building, Sculpture Galleries

British Sculpture of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries stands as a brilliant expression of the Renaissance admission for the world of classical antiquity. The gods, goddesses, and heroes of Greek and Roman fiction spring to life as statuesque, found life in Renaissance bronze statuary. Patrons schooled in classical literature energetically collected these works. Renaissance interest in nature also encouraged production of bringing portraiture spiritual animals and horses in combat.

The sculptures in this exhibition include fifty bronzes from the late sixteenth century to the Smith Collection, one of the most important private collections of European bronze. Most of these sculptures develop subjects inspired by ancient art and mythology. The Smith Collection includes exceptionally fine works by major contemporaries and successors of Michelangelo.

Several of the Italian sculptures come from the Florence studio of Giovanni Bologna, whose fountains attracted the patronage of the Medici grand dukes and princely courts throughout Europe.

Edouard Vuillard

January 19–April 26, 2003

Thomas Gainesborough, 1728–1788

February 9–May 12, 2003

Ernst Ludwig Kirchner: 1880–1938

March 2–June 3, 2003

Events

SUNDAY

10:00

Gallery Talk: Jacob and Ilse Schreve Collection of Master Works (wb)

10:30

Gallery Talk: Masters of Italian and Flemish Painting (wb)

11:00

Gallery Talk: Anselm Kiefer: The World Broke in Two (wb)

11:30

Gallery Talk: Masters of Italian and Flemish Painting (wb)

12:00

Film: A Large Survey of Tempo: Two Pioneers of the Avant-Garde (wb)

1:00

Gallery Talk: Masters of Italian and Flemish Painting (wb)

2:00

Film: A Large Survey of Tempo: Two Pioneers of the Avant-Garde (wb)

3:00

Gallery Talk: Masters of Italian and Flemish Painting (wb)

4:00

Film: A Large Survey of Tempo: Two Pioneers of the Avant-Garde (wb)

5:00

Gallery Talk: Masters of Italian and Flemish Painting (wb)

6:00

Film: A Large Survey of Tempo: Two Pioneers of the Avant-Garde (wb)

TUESDAY

10:00

Gallery Talk: Selections from the New Sculpture Galleries (wb)

10:30

Gallery Talk: Selections and Drawings: Four Centuries of Tempo (wb)

11:00

Gallery Talk: Masters of Italian and Flemish Painting (wb)

12:00

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4:00

Film: A Large Survey of Tempo: Two Pioneers of the Avant-Garde (wb)
Guided Tours

Introductory Tours

Tours begin in the West Building Rotunda at 12:00 and the East Building at 1:00.

Audio Programs

The Director’s Tour: Masterpieces at the National Gallery of Art. This program explores more than 100 selected masterworks by such artists as Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt van Rijn, Johannes Vermeer, Claude Monet, and others. Tours are given by Gallery staff in American art tours in French and Italian; German: works of art that remain open until 6:30. For information on acquisition, history, and conservation. Hand-held digital audio players allow visitors to choose the order in which they view paintings and the length of time they spend with each work.

Audio guides available in English and Italian at the West Building entrance and at the East Building Collections. Audio guides are available, and groups of ten or more. Cost includes audio tour for Trompe L’Oeil.

National Gallery of Art

November 5, 14, 16 and 19 at 12:00 (wb) November 3, 6 and 8 at 12:00 (wb)

The Director’s Tour: Masterpieces at the National Gallery of Art.

Chamber Ensemble

Music for clarinet and strings by Peter Schickele, George Kline, and others

Monday and Thursday at 12:30

November 3, 6, and 8 at 12:00 (eb)

Lectures

Sunday Lectures

Lectures by National Gallery of Art staff and other specialists are held in the East Building auditorium on Sunday afternoons at 2:00.

November 15: “In Focus: The Collection: Masterpieces at the National Gallery of Art, focus group reservations, call 202-633-4691.

November 8: “The Christ in Art: Gilbert, Potter, and Other Americans”

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Postcard Tours/Tarjetas Postales Tour the Gallery using fun post card activities for families. Pick up descriptive cards at the West Building main floor art information desk. Take them to the Sculpture Garden, and repeat at 1:00. Participants should arrive fifteen minutes before the tour begins. For more information, call (202) 842-6770.

The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20008 (202) 633-1000. Tours are free, except as noted. For the safety of the works of art, bags for inspection as they enter are not on view may be seen by American paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, American paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, and temporary exhibitions. Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis unless otherwise noted.

Family Workshops Preregistration is required (202) 842-6770. All workshops are offered from 10:00 to 11:30.

Good Morning November 27, December 1, and December 8 9:00–10:30 Organizing registration Learn about paintings and sculptures that fooled the eye in the exhibition. (Sur)Realism in “Zero de Conduite” screening. This program offers a unique opportunity for a college project that examines traditional techniques of illusion using modern objects and methods. Led by artist/curator Donna McEwen.

Stories in Art These programs combine story-telling with looking at art and a hands-on activity. Each forty-five-minute program is offered at 10:15 and 11:45. Participants should arrive fifteen minutes before the program begins. For more information, call (202) 842-6770. (Ages 4–10)

Sally Goes to the Farm Written and illustrated by Stephen Huneck Sunday, November 25, 6:30–8:00 Meet in the West Building Rotunda. On Sally’s first trip to the countryside, she meets new animal friends such as Rusty (the farm dog), who shows her how much fun farm life can be. As Sally’s friends paint, a country picnic is taken to home. Follows Sally’s magical adventures across time and space to where the wild things are, their wild ways are, and her wild dreams are.

In the Mirror of Mya Deren This new documentary about American experimental filmmaker Mya Deren, whose influential short films (Myths of the Near East, Oxytocin and the Indian halkın, and Distribution for the Blind) will feature screenings of all of her films (June, 1924 and the short film A Poem of the Dead (1961)). Time: Champions of Darkness (1988) and Zero de Conduite (1933). Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis unless otherwise noted.

Wild Things roar their terrible roars and wonderful journeys.

Admittance is on a first-come, first-served basis unless otherwise noted.

Gallery Shops

Charitable Giving

Your charitable gift supports many important Gallery programs and will provide you with a private giving opportunity, please contact the Development Office.

American Art Search

A retrospective of the work of America’s best known experimen­
tial filmmaker continues through December 1. Mya Deren (b.
1917) has put together a view of the film artist as poet and painter (Deren himself often sketches and paints directly on his films). The film should work with simple equipment, trusting control over his custo­
mers of making images. This retrospective includes ten programs, each consisting of several films by Brakhage, selected by fellow filmmaker, Andrzej Markiewicz, and organized by Paul Rock. It is in keeping with the Washington Project for the Arts' mission to support local artists.

Charitable Giving

The Cascade Café, with a view of the cascade waterfall, offers soups, salads, specialty entrees, sandwiches, and baked goods. A full espresso bar offers homemade gelato, panini, and sweets.

Postcards Tours

To obtain a quarterly film calendar, signing up for our e-newsletter at www.nga.gov, or call (202) 842-6247 or TDD (202) 737-4215. Sign language interpretation is available with three weeks’ notice. Call (202) 842-6478, extension 7060. A wheelchair-accessible TDD has been installed at the public telephone adjacent to the Constituent Avenue entrance to the West Building. Wheelchairs and strollers are available at all entrances. For information about access to public areas and galleries, refer to the Accessibility Guide and Safety Tips.

On the Web

Check out the NGKids Web site, www.nga.gov/kids, for interactive adventures with works of art in the collection and an animated musical puzzle called the Sculpture Garden.

Garden Cafe

Substitute to the Gallery’s Web site: www.nga.gov/newsletters.

Gardens

National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Cascading figureheads form the backdrop for the cascading waterfall in “Zero de Conduite” screening. This program offers a unique opportunity for a college project that examines traditional techniques of illusion using modern objects and methods. Led by artist/curator Donna McEwen.

Themes That Walk, an exhibition of Mexican art.

Gardens

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ON THE COVER:
Wayne White, Civil War Drum, 1940,
Index of American Design, National
Gallery of Art

November • December