A Masterpiece from the Capitoline Museum, Rome: The Capitoline Venus

Through September 5
West Building, Rotunda

The Capitoline Venus—on loan to the United States for the first time—is one of the best-preserved and most famous masterpieces from Roman antiquity. It is also one of the finest ancient Roman statues in the tradition of the first completely nude, freestanding, full-scale female sculpture, the Aphrodite of Cnidos by Greek sculptor Praxiteles, from about 360 BC. Unearthed in Rome in the 1670s, the Capitoline Venus was given in 1752 by Pope Benedict XIV to the Capitoline Museum—the first art museum in the world open to the general public—and was among the trophies that Napoleon Bonaparte seized after his invasion of Italy and took to Paris in 1797. The sculpture was returned in 1816 and quickly became a highlight for travelers in Europe, including Mark Twain, who was inspired to write the short story “The Capitoline Venus.”

Organized by Roma Capitale, Sovrintendenza ai Beni Culturali di Roma Capitale—Musei Capitolini, Rome, Italy

A New Look: Samuel F. B. Morse’s “Gallery of the Louvre”

West Building, Main Floor

Known for his role in the development of the electromagnetic telegraph, Samuel F. B. Morse began his career as a painter. One of his most important works—the newly conserved Gallery of the Louvre (1831–1833)—is on loan from the Terra Foundation for American Art and organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, with the support of the Terra Foundation for American Art and the Territorial Administration of the Louvre (SAP). The exhibition features some sixty prints, drawings, and copperplates that span the artist’s career, from his early New York works to his finest images of European cathedrals. Born in Washington, Arms gave up his career as an architect to become a printmaker, adapting the meticulous drafting skills required in his architectural practice to the execution of finely wrought prints.

Organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington

Collections Frozen in Time: Selections from the National Gallery of Art Library

Through July 24
West Building, Ground Floor, Gallery G21

As private collections grew in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, many collectors had catalogues produced to document their treasures. Written by noted scholars or the collectors themselves, these catalogues were illustrated by commissioned artists with lavish engravings depicting the assembled objects in fine detail. This special installation highlights sixty of the best examples, from such collectors as James Stanely, 10th Earl of Derby, and Leopold Wilhelm, Archduke of Austria.

Organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington
From Impressionism to Modernism: The Chester Dale Collection

Through January 2, 2012
West Building, Ground Floor
The first exhibition in forty-five years to explore the extraordinary legacy left to the nation by this passionate collector.

Organized by The Art Institute of Chicago
Made possible by United Technology Corporation

Exhibition Film
Director: A. E. Poydel

Supported by a generous gift from Dominique and John de Ferranti, the exhibition’s production fund.

Organized by The National Gallery of Art, Washington
Made possible through the generous support of The STANGEN STEILEN Foundation

GABRIEL METSU, 1629–1667
Thru July 14
East Building, Ground Level

Metsu was one of the most import-ant Dutch genre painters of his day. In the first monographic show of his work in the United States, some thirty-three paintings reveal the artist’s extraordinary ability to capture ordinary moments of life with freshness, spontaneity, and unerring realism. Although his career was relatively short, Metsu was one of the most important artists of the late Baroque period in the United States, some thirty-three paintings reveal the artist’s extraordinary ability to capture ordinary moments of life with freshness, spontaneity, and unerring realism. Although his career was relatively short, Metsu was one of the most important artists of the late Baroque period.


U P C O M I N G E X H I B I T I O N S

The Invention of Glory: Afonso V and the Pastraciano Tapestries
East Building, Upper Level

CALENDAR

LEWIS BALZI: PROTOTYPES/ ROUGE DE NUIT
July 7 through July 14
West Building, Ground Floor

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WARHO: HEADLINES
East Building, Mezzanine

Harry Callahan at 100

October 2, 2011–March 4, 2012
West Building, Ground Floor

THURSDAY
12:00 to 1:00
Story Time in the East Building Rotunda
12:30 to 1:30
Pianos in the Garden: 'La Marseillaise'
2:30 to 3:30
Affordable Art Series: Crosscurrents in Italian Sculpture, 1815–1850

FRIDAY
11:00 to 12:00
Gallery Talk: Gabriel Metsu, 1629–1667
12:30 to 1:30
Film Series from Venice to Smart: Nove Senze Presenza from France (eba)

SATURDAY
11:00 to 12:00
Gallery Talk: Gabriel Metsu, 1629–1667
12:30 to 1:30
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SUNDAY
11:00 to 12:00
Gallery Talk: Gabriel Metsu, 1629–1667
12:30 to 1:30
Film Series from Venice to Smart: Nove Senze Presenza from France (eba)

MONDAY
11:00 to 12:00
Gallery Talk: Gabriel Metsu, 1629–1667
12:30 to 1:30
Film Event: Passages from James Joyce’s “Finnegans Wake” and “Madame Bergeret” and Their Palace, and the Arts in the Dike (eba)

TUESDAY
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Gallery Talk: Gabriel Metsu, 1629–1667
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August

Guided Tours
West Building information desk (wbl)
East Building information desk (eb)

Newspaper
Gregory Scholl (gs)

Film Programs
For fifty years the Film-Makers’ Cooperative in New York has been an oasis of avant-garde cinema. The series is composed of the work of some of the world’s greatest filmmakers, both an avid custodian of the cinematic patrimony at two facilities in Bois d’Arcy and Saint-Cyr. The series includes a number of hands-on and rare films, timed and色调 when they were actually intended.

Passages from James Joyce’s “Finnegans Wake”
A survey of documentary and fiction portraits of Ireland by Irish filmmakers. This Other Eden has been presented in association with the Irish Film Institute and in conjunction with Imagine Ireland, a yearlong celebration of Irish arts in North America. The series is composed mainly of literary and historical documentation from the early 1930s through the 1960s, but also includes a selection of excellent Italian filmmakers who explore a range of cinematic representations of the Irish character.

How to Make a Book with Stead
The creative urge of one of Europe’s most gifted painters and publishers, Steffan Vaegg, is well documented in the Washington press run of this ongoing film. Since the recent sale of Stead’s archive, called, as selected by Bob Buslik, Gaetanos, and, with some of the world’s greatest filmmakers, both an avid custodian of the cinematic patrimony at two facilities in Bois d’Arcy and Saint-Cyr.

Audio Tours
West Building, East Building, and American Collection: Fee free of charge
The Director’s Tour: Masterpieces at the National Gallery of Art
Director Earl R. Powell III and curator explore more than 130 beloved masterpieces.
The Director’s Tour: Highlights in Foreign Languages
Visitors can hear the director’s introduction and commentary at twenty-six stops on the tour in French, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish.
The Director’s Tour: Children’s Tours
West Building, East Building, Sculpture Garden
For more information, visit the Web site www.nga.gov/}

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July • August

VISIT WWW.NGA.GOV/CALENDAR FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

National Gallery of Art
July • August 2011 Calendar

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