

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

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GALLERY'S BICENTENNIAL JEFFERSON EXHIBITION

TO BE AIDED BY EXXON GRANT

WASHINGTON, D. C. The Eye of Thomas Jefferson, the National Gallery of Art's major Bicentennial exhibition opening in June, will be supported by a grant from Exxon Corporation, it was announced today by J. Carter Brown, Director of the Gallery. This announcement was made by Mr. Brown at a press conference at the Gallery, where models and sculpture to be in the exhibition were previewed.

A film based on the theme of the exhibition will be produced with funds from Exxon. This film will be distributed through the Gallery's Extension Service free of charge to schools and colleges across the nation.

Based on the life of the third President of the United States, the visual arts of his day, and his own highly enthusiastic interest in them, the exhibition will be on

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view at the Gallery June 5 through September 6. The most complex exhibition ever mounted by the Gallery, over 550 objects have been selected from 100 collections in France, England, Italy, Sweden, The Netherlands, and Portugal, as well as the United States and Canada.

The exhibition will include paintings, sculpture, drawings and prints, books, decorative arts, architectural models and Jeffersonian horticultural material. The largest collection of Jefferson's drawings ever shown together will be presented, as well as all the competition drawings for the President's House, one of which Jefferson submitted anonymously. Large-scale models of buildings Jefferson designed will also be included, such as Poplar Forest, Monticello and Barboursville. One of his garden temple designs will be reconstructed to house the renowned third-century B.C. sculpture Venus de' Medici, which is being lent from the Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy.

Exxon Corporation is also making possible a special prepublication price for the exhibition catalogue (\$15.95 through April 15). This is the first time the Gallery has offered an exhibition catalogue at a pre-publication price. Fully illustrated, the catalogue is

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edited by W. Howard Adams, exhibition curator, with entries by guest scholars.

Jefferson, whose life-long commitment to the visual arts greatly influenced the cultural life of this nation, designed many architectural and landscaping plans and pieces of decorative arts. The exhibition will trace his intellectual and cultural development, from colonial Virginia, to the influential years in Paris and his exposure to the ideals of the Enlightenment, to his architectural triumph, the famous rotunda dome at the University of Virginia.

Installation of the exhibition will require 25,000 square feet of the ground floor galleries. In addition a Jeffersonian botanical display will be installed in the West Garden Court on the main floor. John Bedenkapp, New York, and Elroy Quenroe, Minneapolis, are the designers.

Essays on Jefferson and the arts, to be published separately in conjunction with the exhibition, have been contributed by scholars in the United States and Europe.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director (Information Officer), or Pamela Jenkinson, Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565, (202) 737-4215, ext. 224.