

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS PREVIEW:

MONDAY, November 15, 1976

10 A.M. - 1 P.M. All press  
and media

1 - 3 P.M. Additional time  
for filming and photography

TUTANKHAMUN TREASURES EXHIBITION

RECALLS EXCITING 1922 DISCOVERY

WASHINGTON, D. C. November 8, 1976. The largest exhibition of Tutankhamun treasures ever to be sent abroad by the Arab Republic of Egypt, including eighteen pieces which have never been seen outside Egypt before, goes on view at the National Gallery of Art Wednesday, November 17 for approximately four months.

Arrangements for the U.S. tour of these objects were announced in October 1975 in an agreement signed by Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy and U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

Included among the fifty-five gold, alabaster and jewelled objects in the exhibition, which will be on view at the Gallery through March 15, 1977, is the solid gold funeral mask of the pharaoh inlaid with carnelian, lapis lazuli, obsidian, feldspar and colored glass; the wooden gilt statuette of the goddess Selket; the gilded figure of Tutankhamun as harpooner; a gilded shrine; and jewelry and furniture.

In addition to revealing the intrinsic aesthetic qualities of each object, the installation of the exhibition is designed to evoke the ten years of painstaking work entailed in the removal of thousands of objects from the four

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chambers of the tomb as well as the excitement and aura of the discovery and excavation of the tomb from 1922 until 1932. The objects are presented in the approximate order in which they were uncovered accompanied by large murals from photographs taken on the site during excavation. Excerpts from the first-person, three-volume journal of British archaeologist Howard Carter, who discovered the tomb, describe the countless and often thrilling steps taken during excavation.

News of the find, which captured the attention of the world for years, was relayed by the London Times, chosen by Lord Carnarvon, Carter's patron, as the official information source. Samples of newspaper headlines and accounts, as photo murals, further convey the atmosphere and excitement surrounding the discovery.

Four publications have been planned to accompany the exhibition: a catalogue of the exhibition by I.E.S. Edwards, former Keeper of Antiquities, The British Museum and three books on the tomb--its objects, the discovery and jewelry. More than 100 reproductions and adaptations of jewelry and sculpture in the exhibition will also be on sale, the proceeds of which, after expenses, will go for the work of the Organization of Egyptian Antiquities, primarily for renovation of the Cairo Museum as well as for the Graeco-Roman Museum in Alexandria.

The honorary exhibition committee is headed up by Ismail Fahmy, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Gamal el-Outeifi, Minister of Culture and Information of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Mohamed Ashraf Ghorbal, Ambassador from the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United States; and Mohamed Gamal el-Din Mokhtar, President of the Organization of Egyptian Antiquities.

Also on the committee are Yussef es-Sebai, former Minister of Culture and

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Information of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Abdel Quader Selim, General Director of the Cairo Museum; Ibrahim el-Nawawy, first curator of the Cairo Museum; Saleh Ahmed Saleh, Director of Scientific Research and Restoration, Organization of Egyptian Antiquities; Christine Lilyquist, Curator of Egyptian Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Herman Eilts, Ambassador of the United States to the Arab Republic of Egypt; and James Holloway III, Admiral U.S.N., Chief of Naval Operations.

Gallery designers Gaillard F. Ravenel and George Sexton prepared the exhibition for the Gallery. Earl A. Powell, III, Aide to the Assistant Director, is the exhibition coordinator for the Gallery.

New York's Metropolitan Museum, manager of the consortium of the six participating American museums, has arranged for federal indemnification under the new Arts and Artifacts Indemnification Act, virtually eliminating insurance costs for the exhibition both in transit and while the objects are in the country.

The exhibition has been made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which has matched grants from Exxon Corporation and the Robert Wood Johnson, Jr. Charitable Trust.

The exhibition will also be seen at the Field Museum (in joint sponsorship with the University of Chicago), Chicago (April 15 through August 15), New Orleans Museum of Art (September 15 through January 15, 1978), Los Angeles County Museum of Art (February 15 through June 15), Seattle Art Museum (July 15 through November 15), and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (December 15 through April 15, 1979).

Exhibition hours will be Monday through Saturday 10 a.m to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon to 9 p.m. The Gallery is closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

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