



American Federation of Arts

For Immediate Release

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**RARELY EXHIBITED MASTER DRAWINGS SPANNING FIVE CENTURIES ON TWO-
VENUE TOUR OF U.S.**

The Draftsman's Art: Master Drawings from the National Gallery of Scotland

(April 2000)—A major survey of drawings, *The Draftsman's Art: Master Drawings from the National Gallery of Scotland*, will be on view at The Frick Collection, New York, December 12, 2000 through February 25, 2001 and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, March 16 through June 10, 2001. The selection of 80 master works on paper—some on view for the first time in this country—showcases different schools and traditions and demonstrates the scope of materials and stylistic approaches to draftsmanship by British, Dutch, Flemish, French, German, and Italian artists from the 15th through the 19th centuries.

Organized by the American Federation of Arts and the National Gallery of Scotland and drawn from the Gallery's preeminent collection, the exhibition comprises drawings by celebrated European and British artists, including Leonardo da Vinci (1451–1519), Raphael (1483–1520), Peter Paul Rubens (1577–1640), François Boucher (1703–70), William Blake (1757–1827), Jean-Auguste Dominique Ingres (1780–1867), and Georges Seurat (1859–91), as well as by lesser-known artists such as Giovanni Battista Lusieri (ca. 1755–1821) and Ernest Hébert (1817–1908).

Guest curator Michael Clarke, keeper, the National Gallery of Scotland, selected a range of drawings produced by a variety of techniques, including chalk, oil, and silverpoint, as well as watercolors and gouaches. In the introduction to the catalogue accompanying the exhibition, Mr. Clarke writes that the exhibition "contains superb works from the earliest donations to the collection, significant reattributions, striking discoveries, and recent acquisitions of the highest quality. The National Gallery is the most important repository of drawings by Scottish artists or of Scottish subjects, and these are also represented here."

The exquisite draftsmanship of the Italian Renaissance is revealed in da Vinci's *Study of Four Paws of a Dog or Wolf* (ca.1490–1495) and Raphael's refined *Study for the 'Madonna del Pesce'* (ca. 1512–14), both recent acquisitions.

Representing the mastery of Netherlandish drawing are two works by Rubens, as well as two sheets by his contemporary Jacob Jordaens (1593–1678), one of them his graceful *Female Nude, Seen from the Back* (n.d.).

Drawings from the British school feature examples of portraiture, genre scenes, landscape, and historical subjects. Included are Scottish subjects such as *Horse Fair on Bruntsfield Links, Edinburgh* (1750) by Paul Sandby (1540–1691), *Cullen Castle, Banffshire* (n.d.) by Robert Adam (1728–1792), and *The Burying of the Scottish Regalia* (n.d.) by David Wilkie (1785–1841). Allan Ramsay's (1713–1784) tender portrait *Head of Margaret Lindsay, the Artist's Second Wife, Looking Down* (ca. 1736).

The splendor of French draftsmanship is revealed in Boucher's *The Rape of Europa* (n.d.) and in two drawings by Ingres: the portrait *Mademoiselle Albertine Hayard* (n.d.) and the subject *The Dream of Ossian* (ca. 1851). Seurat's small yet monumental *Seated Nude* (n.d.), a study for the artist's *Bathers at Asnières* (1883–84), is also featured.

The exhibition was originally presented at the National Gallery of Scotland from April 9 through June 13, 1999.

PUBLICATION: Accompanying the exhibition is a fully illustrated catalogue with an introductory essay by the guest curator and entries on individual works by guest curator Michael Clarke, keeper, The National Gallery of Scotland, Timothy Clifford, director, and Stephen Lloyd, Katrina Thomson, Aidan Weston-Lewis, and Julia Lloyd Williams, assistant keepers, and Dr. Colin J. Bailey. *The Draftsman's Art: Master Drawings from the National Gallery of Scotland* is published by the National Gallery of Scotland and the American Federation of Arts. 184 pages. 11 _ x 9 5/8 inches; paperbound. Price to be announced.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF SCOTLAND, EDINBURGH: Founded in 1850, the Gallery opened its doors to the public in 1859. Renowned worldwide for its exceptional collection of Old Master paintings, the Gallery also houses a premiere collection of works on paper. Numbering more than fourteen thousand individual sheets and sketchbooks, the drawings collection represents the great names of European art, as well as those of the British school.

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS: Founded by an act of Congress in 1909, the AFA is the nation's oldest and most comprehensive non-profit art museum service organization. The AFA provides its more than 550 member institutions with traveling art exhibitions and educational, professional, and technical support programs developed in collaboration with the museum community. Through these programs, the AFA seeks to strengthen the ability of museums to enrich the public's experience and understanding of art.