



PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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ART IN THE WHITE HOUSE: A NATION'S PRIDE

Washington, D.C. A new book, Art in the White House: A Nation's Pride, published by the White House Historical Association in cooperation~ with the National Geographic Society, will acquaint and delight art lovers, history enthusiasts, scholars and casual readers alike. "I am confident that anyone not yet familiar with the art in the White House will be pleased to discover its wide range and high quality. They may be impressed, as I was, by certain individual masterpieces, and they will surely feel the character of our nation and the flow of its history in the collection as a whole," writes Author William Floss.

Richly illustrated, this volume is the first to document and exhibit in full the paintings, sculpture and drawings of the White House fine arts collection, an important and historical collection which rivals the holdings of many museums.

The collection was begun in 1800 when the mansion was first occupied and has been carefully refined since the 1960's. This assemblage reflects America's ideals and achievements as well as the beauty and geographic diversity of its Land and of its people.

In the foreword, First lady Barbara Bush writes, "A special pleasure of living in the White House is being surrounded by so many wonderful work of art. As I view the portraits of Presidents and First Ladies, I am reminded of the human elements of history and of the family relationships fostered within these walls."

The opening pages of Art in the White House trace the collection's growth and record the changes in taste and collecting goals. "All the Presidents and First Ladies have in one way or another made significant contributions. First Ladies of recent decades deserve great credit for much of the art featured in this book," writes White House Curator Rex Scouten.

Scores of memorable works are presented in sumptuous color and an essay interprets each featured piece, recounting its artistic and historical significance. The book illustrates all of the nearly 450 works of art in the collection, revealing the full range and depth of this national treasure. Included are works by such celebrated artists as Albert Bierstadt, George Caleb Bingham, Mary Cassatt, Asher B. Durand, Thomas Eakins, William M. Harnett, Childe Hassam, Charles Willson Peale, Frederic Remington, John Singer Sargent, Gilbert Stuart and James McNeill Whistler.

Contributors to the book are William Floss, noted lecturer on art and author of *Treasures From the National Museum of American Art*, Samuel F.B. Morse, and the major contributor to *Treasures of State* Doreen Bolger, Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture at the Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas; David Park Curry, Associate Director of Research and Collections at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; John Wilmerding, Sarofim Professor of American Art at Princeton University and the author of more than a dozen books on American art; and Betty C. Monkman, Associate Curator of the White House collection of fine and decorative arts.

The White House Historical Association was established in 1961 as a not-for-profit private organization whose educational and historical purposes are to enhance public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the White House. In addition to *Art in the White House: A Nation's Pride*, the Association has published six books about the White House and its occupants: *The Presidents of the United States of America*; *The First Ladies*; *The White House: An Historic Guide*; *The Living White House*; *The President's House: A History* and *White House Glassware: Two Centuries of Presidential Entertaining*. Income from the sale of the Association's publications is used to fund the acquisition of historical furnishings and works of art, which become a part of the permanent White House Collection.

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\$49.50 plus \$6.00 for postage and handling for mail orders, 376 pages, 132 color plates, 459 black and white photographs. Available from: White House Historical Association, 740 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, D.C. 20503. Distributed by Harry N. Abrams.

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