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America's National Gallery Of Art



Synopsis

Seventy-five years ago, on the brink of America's entry into World War II, the National Gallery of Art opened in Washington, DC. Founded by Andrew W. Mellon and accepted on behalf of the nation by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mellon's gift included his magnificent art collection and the neoclassical structure that is today's West Building. Since its opening in 1941, the Gallery's singular status as the nation's art museum has continued to attract public-spirited donors. Their generosity has added tens of thousands of superb works of art and has made possible the construction of I. M. Pei's East Building in 1978, the Sculpture Garden in 1999, and most recently a rooftop terrace and new tower galleries in the East Building. In celebration of the 75th anniversary of a beloved cultural institution, America's National Gallery of Art takes readers on a definitive inside tour through the museum's remarkable history. With lively prose and abundant illustrations, this richly detailed volume recounts the development of the Gallery under its four directors—David Finley, John Walker, J. Carter Brown, and currently Earl A. Powell III—and highlights the museum's collections, exhibitions, architecture, and ambience. Later chapters explore the Gallery's new emphasis on contemporary art and its historic 2014 agreement to accept custody of the Corcoran Collection, giving readers and visitors a window onto the future of this national treasure.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This lavish volume presents a lively tour of the great museum founded by Andrew W. Mellon,

taking in its history, architecture, and collections."--Apollo Magazine"This celebratory book about the National Gallery of Art, the US's public art museum, is part biography of this remarkable institution and part history of a world-class art collection. . . . The narrative (and liberal use of illustrations throughout) intertwines the history of the art, the architecture, and the individuals responsible for the gallery's development."--Choice

"America's National Gallery of Art provides an important understanding of how this distinctive institution came to be. The book introduces readers to the museum's origins as a legacy of Andrew Mellon, and charts its history as a narrative of generous donors and visionary directors. This work offers insights into the museum building's architectural evolution and the acquisitions that make the National Gallery of Art a treasure house."--Judith F. Dolkart, Addison Gallery of American Art

Good companion to the extensive book a number of years ago.

Wonderful coffee table book!

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