

Major works from National Galleries of Scotland going to America



The National Galleries of Scotland is to send a selection of major works from the national collection to the United States over the next year. This touring show will raise the international profile of the Galleries and draw attention to the superb quality and range of works held within Scotland's national collections.

It is also hoped that the exhibitions will help attract interest and financial support for the proposed redevelopment of the Scottish National Gallery. The project plans to radically overhaul and significantly expand galleries devoted to the national collection of historic Scottish art whilst also greatly improving visitor circulation and facilities.

In November 2014, ten masterpieces will go on display at The Frick Collection housed in Henry Clay Frick's former residence on New York's Fifth Avenue. *Masterpieces from the Scottish National Gallery* will then travel with a further forty-five works to the de Young, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, to the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, Texas.

The NGS has always maintained excellent relationships with partners all over the world and this tour will enable the NGS to strengthen these ties. The exhibition will include works by Raeburn, Ramsay, Constable, El Greco, Gainsborough, Reynolds, Velazquez and Watteau. *The Virgin Adoring the Sleeping Christ Child* by Sandro Botticelli will also be included. This work has never before been on public view in the United States.

Sir John Leighton, Director-General of the National Galleries of Scotland commented: *“At a time of intense international interest in Scotland, this tour to some of the most prestigious venues in the world will be a significant boost to the profile of the Galleries, highlighting the outstanding quality of the national collections and encouraging more visitors to discover the extraordinarily rich heritage and culture of our country.”*

Michael Clarke, Director of the Scottish National Gallery, said: *“The excellence of our collections will achieve wider recognition through this tour. It will enable us to fly the flag for Scotland in a country whose history has been greatly enriched by Scots over the centuries.”*