



Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

RELEASE

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Rembrandt Featured in New Eisenhower Museum Exhibit

Beginning with President George Washington, private citizens, along with foreign leaders and diplomats have given U.S. Presidents gifts and tokens of every conceivable kind and monetary value. When foreign dignitaries visit American Presidents, it is traditional and part of the ceremonial pageantry, for one leader to present the other with a gift. A new exhibit, “*The Art of Diplomacy: Gifts to Dwight D. Eisenhower*,” opens at the Eisenhower Museum in Abilene, Kansas on January 15, will display many gifts presented to President Eisenhower by foreign dignitaries and diplomats, along with several from American citizens. Gifts from the American public are given out of fondness for the President and are often crafted or produced by the donor.

One of the most unique and popular gifts in this exhibit is an etching by Rembrandt entitled, *The Golf Player*, and was presented to Eisenhower by Paul J. Strantz, Washington, D.C. in 1957. Another popular artist has three paintings in the exhibit. Olaf Weighorst, was a Danish artist born in 1899, immigrated to the United States in 1918 and became fascinated with the American West. He sketched and painted the Western culture, often selling his work as calendar and magazine illustrations. He died in California in 1988. The three paintings are titled *Blackfoot Chief*, *Apache Scouts*, and *The Roundup*. One of Eisenhower's favorite paintings, *Wild Duck Hanging on a Green Wall*, hanged in the Oval Office and later at his retirement home in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

A fascinating piece called the *Deer Hunt* is a 9x12 inch stone micro-mosaic, consisting of thousands of tiny tiles that make up the picture of a deer being chased by hounds. It was given to Eisenhower by H.E. Giovanni Gronchi, President of the Republic of Italy in 1956, and is one of the favorite museum pieces of the museum curator, Dennis Medina. “Because of the many countries and various cultures that presented President Eisenhower with gifts, the museum is able to offer a wide variety of art objects, in order to give the American public an opportunity to enjoy a glimpse of foreign culture and interests in one display,” said Medina. Other media in the exhibit that opens January 15, 2007, are glass and crystal vases; wood, bronze, and porcelain sculptures; a hand-painted pine dower chest restored in a Pennsylvania Dutch style and given to the President by a Pennsylvania resident in 1956; several lacquer boxes; urns; silver tea service, and many other gifts presented to the President are exhibited.

The exhibit is on display in the temporary gallery of the Eisenhower Museum. All buildings at the Center are open from 9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., daily and closed only Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. For further information call 785-263-6700 or toll free 1-877 RING IKE.

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