



राष्ट्रीय आधुनिक
कला संग्रहालय
NATIONAL GALLERY
OF MODERN ART

National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru Ministry of Culture, Government of India

presents

a film festival on G R E A T ARTISTS B I O G R A P H Y

at the Auditorium, National Gallery of Modern Art ,
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**Saturday 15th February 2014 at 3.00 p.m.
and Sunday 16th February 2014 at 11.00 a.m.**

**| El Greco | Giotto Di Bondone |
| Turner | Vincent Van Gogh |**

El Greco (1541-1614)

The paintings of the artist El Greco are among the most distinctive works of the early modern period. His paintings marked a radical departure from the naturalism and careful modelling of the Renaissance, and as result were ignored for close to 300 years. Domenico Theotocopolous, dubbed by the Spaniards 'El Greco', was born in the Greek Island of Crete and was trained to paint in the Byzantine style. After spending some time in Venice and Rome, El Greco adopted the Spanish city of Toledo as his home. Throughout the course of his artistic career El Greco's style varied enormously. In Italy his paintings reflected the bright colouring and the loose brush strokes of the Venetian masters, such as Tintoretto, whilst in Spain the fervour of religious belief and lingering medieval sensibilities added an emotional intensity and deep sense of almost mystical spiritualism to his work.

The result was a highly individualistic style of painting. Though criticised by many, El Greco's dramatic style paved the way for the Baroque and later, in the 20th century, contributed to the development of Expressionism.

Works featured in this programme include: The Purification of the Temple (1568-1570, National Gallery of Art, Washington), The Disrobing of Christ (1577-79, Toledo Cathedral), Martyrdom of St Maurice (1580-82, Nuevos Museos, El Escorial), The Burial of Count Orgaz (1586-88, San Tomé, Toledo), Laocoon (1610-14, National Gallery, Washington)

Giotto Di Bondone (1267-1337)

The son of a Tuscan shepherd, Giotto di Bondone rose to become the most important artist of his age, kick starting the Renaissance with his naturalistic and emotive treatment of medieval Christian iconography. Giotto enjoyed fame never before known to an artist, receiving commissions from princes, kings and Popes, and in doing so raised the status of the artist from that of a mere craftsman to that of a poet or philosopher. Through his immense talent with a brush and his visionary artistic style, Giotto made the vital departure from the Byzantine style of painting that had dominated Christian iconography for close to a thousand years. Instead of following his artistic predecessors, Giotto took nature as his teacher and narrative as his guide, creating a precedent that would be followed by the leading artists of the high Renaissance. For the first time an artist had developed an individual style, something which would come to epitomise the spirit of artistic endeavour in the centuries to come. Giotto is truly the first great artist in the history of Western art.

Works featured in this programme include The frescoes of the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua (1304-1306) The Church of St Francis in Assisi (1295-1300), The Bardi and Peruzzi chapels (1320s) in Santa Croce in Florence, The Ognissanti Madonna and Child Altarpiece (1305-1310) in the Uffizi Gallery, Florence.

Turner (1775-1851)

The most famous of all British painters, J.M.W. Turner was a visionary and a maverick, whose landscape paintings both astounded and antagonised those that saw them. From humble beginnings Turner rose to become the dominant force in British landscape painting and a towering figure of Romanticism. A member of the Royal Academy in London, Turner was nevertheless fiercely attacked by critics for his radical approach to painting, one remarking that he painted with 'soaps suds and white wash'. Turner's paintings reflect his varying responses to the world around him, a world that was rapidly changing as the industrial revolution propelled society forward. As well as depicting steamships and steam railways, Turner's paintings recall the ancient world, echoing neo-classical landscapes of the French painter Claude Lorraine. But Turner's true muse was nature itself. Nowhere is the power and majesty of nature so emphatically depicted as in the landscapes of Turner. Rain, snow and sea engulf great ships and conquering armies, as humanity is utterly dwarfed by the awesome forces of nature. Turner painted nature as he understood it and not as saw it, and in this way he is often seen as anticipating Impressionism. His handling of paint at times teetered on the brink of abstraction. Turner was a radical force in his time and for that he is remembered as great artist.

Works featured in this programme include Fishermen at Sea (1796, Tate Gallery, London), The Shipwreck (1805, Tate Gallery, London), Snow Storm: Hannibal and His Army Crossing the Alps (1812, Tate Gallery, London), Dido Building Carthage (1815, The National Gallery, London), Snow Storm - Steam-Boat off a Harbour's Mouth (1842, Tate Gallery, London), Rain, Steam and Speed - The Great Western Railway (1844, The National Gallery, London)

Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890)

Vincent van Gogh was one of the true pioneers of modern painting. He is perhaps the most mythologised artist in the history of art and his tragic life is ingrained in the popular imagination. Active as an artist for only ten years he completed 1250 paintings, before succumbing to mental illness and taking his own life in July of 1890. Son of a Dutch Protestant pastor, Van Gogh was a deeply spiritual man and began painting after witnessing the desperate poverty of the agricultural communities of Holland and Belgium. Buoyed up by the unquestioning support and encouragement of his younger brother Theo, Van Gogh developed a highly individualistic visual style, typified by bold forms and short brushstrokes of pure colour. Influenced in part by the Impressionists, Van Gogh strived to develop an expressive language more direct than that of his artistic predecessors in an effort to communicate the almost religious fervour with which he perceived and interpreted the world. Although he sold only one painting during his lifetime, his enormous rise to fame after his death means that today his are among the most cherished paintings of all the great artists.

Works featured in this programme include The Potato-Eaters (1885, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam) Sunflowers (1889, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam) Vincent's House in Arles (The Yellow House) (1888, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam) Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear (1889, Courtauld Institute Galleries, London) The Starry Night. Saint-Rémy (1889, The Museum of Modern Art, New York) Wheat Field with Crows (1890, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam)

