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## NEW YORK STATE'S JACKSON POLLOCK PAINTING TO BE EXHIBITED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

New York State Office of General Services Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced a painting by Jackson Pollock housed in the Empire State Plaza Art Collection will become an integral part of the upcoming exhibition, *Jackson Pollock: Blind Spots*, at the Tate Liverpool museum in England. The exhibition will also travel to the Dallas Museum of Art in Texas. The painting, which was located at the base of the Corning Tower, was taken down and shipped to England earlier this month.

“By loaning Jackson Pollock’s *Number 12, 1952*, we are fulfilling an important goal of the Plaza Art Collection, which is to expose the public to the work of artists who were producing art in New York when the Empire State Plaza was under construction,” Destito said. “These were some of the most talented and innovative artists America produced, and placing this one painting on the international stage will bring even more prestige to the entire collection, which belongs to the people of New York.”

The painting will become part of a new exhibition titled *Jackson Pollock: Blind Spots*. It will be the first exhibition of its kind in more than 30 years to focus on the art Pollock produced between 1951 and 1953, otherwise known as the Black Pourings. This particular work, created after nearly four years of colorful, lyrical, decorative, non-figurative paintings, represented a major turning point in Pollock’s style. Feeling compelled to re-invigorate himself and his practice during a difficult period in his life, it was a deliberate move from his defining “drip” technique to a new “pour.”

“This work is vital to the success of our exhibition.” Tate Artistic Director Francesco Manacorda wrote when requesting the painting for the exhibition. “Exploring these immensely rich and relatively neglected works

will produce new insights into this pivotal artist's contribution to and influence on post-war American art.”

The exhibition will be on view from June 30 through October 18 at Tate Liverpool, one of four Tate museums that collectively house the United Kingdom's national modern art collection. Tate Liverpool, located in the North of England, is one of the largest museums of modern and contemporary art in that country outside of London.

In November 2015, the Dallas Museum of Art will become the only American venue of the *Blind Spots* exhibition, which will run through March 20, 2016.

Jackson Pollock (1912 – 1956) is considered to be one of the greatest American artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was one of the founding fathers of the Abstract Expressionists, a group of post-World War II artists whose work is credited with propelling America to the forefront of the world art scene. Many of his paintings were based on emotionally charged gestures of thrown paint, also known as action painting. Growing up in Arizona and California, Pollock came to New York in 1930 to study art. In the 1940s, he married artist Lee Krasner, and they bought a home and moved to East Hampton, Long Island where they lived until his death in 1956.

### **Additional Information about Pollock's “Number 12, 1952”**

- The painting was purchased by Nelson A. Rockefeller (for his personal collection) in 1952 from Sidney Janis Gallery in New York City.
- The painting was placed on display in the Executive Mansion in 1960 in Albany where it hung on the west wall of the second floor, next to Picasso's *Guernica* tapestry.
- In 1961, it was badly damaged in a fire at the mansion, which started in the basement under the drawing room at the north end of the building. The painting sustained overall smoke damage, and the heat of the fire melted the paint.
- After some initial conservation efforts, the painting was held in storage in Tarrytown, Westchester County until it was gifted to the

people of New York State by Governor Rockefeller on May 22, 1974, shipped to Albany in the fall of 1974, and installed in the Empire State Plaza.

- In 1990, the painting was sent to the Williamstown Art Conservation Center in Massachusetts for further restoration. It was returned to the Empire State Plaza in 1991 and has been on public display ever since.

The Empire State Plaza Art Collection consists of 92 modern art paintings, sculptures, and tapestries that were purchased in the late 1960s to the early 1970s, including works by Alexander Calder, Jackson Pollock, Franz Kline, Joan Mitchell, and Mark Rothko. In all, 82 artists who were working in New York at the time the collection was acquired are represented. The collection, selected by a commission appointed by Governor Nelson Rockefeller, was purchased with state funds during construction of the Empire State Plaza. A selection of works from the collection are currently on display at the New York State Museum as part of an exhibit commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Empire State Plaza.

For more information about the Tate Liverpool's exhibition, visit:

<http://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-liverpool/exhibition/jackson-pollock-blind-spots>.

More information about the Dallas Museum of Art's exhibit can be found at <https://www.dma.org/art/exhibitions/jackson-pollock-blind-spots>.

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