Media Advisory


WHEN: Wednesday, March 11
10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

WHERE: National Portrait Gallery
Eighth and G Streets N.W.

WHO: Kim Sajet, director, National Portrait Gallery
Brandon Fortune, chief curator, National Portrait Gallery

The Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery has organized a retrospective of Elaine de Kooning’s portraits. De Kooning (1918–1989) created abstract and figurative paintings and drawings in New York City during the height of the Abstract Expressionist movement following World War II. The exhibition will include 66 of her portraits; it will be open March 13 through Jan. 10, 2016.

Most of de Kooning’s works reside within her estate and among family members and have rarely been seen by the public. The National Portrait Gallery holds the largest museum collection of her portraits with 13 drawings and paintings; all will be on display. The exhibition will show nine drawings and paintings of John F. Kennedy by de Kooning, including the museum’s painting of Kennedy, which is usually on long-term view in the permanent collection exhibition “America’s Presidents.”

For live, up-to-the-minute updates about the exhibition, use the hashtag #MeetEdK on the museum’s Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts.

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