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Evening for admiring Goya's 'Women'

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Article Text:

"He raised up the feminine mystique to a world which did not appreciate it," proclaimed Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, adding a note of artistic appreciation to his invocation before Thursday's dinner celebrating "Goya: Images of Women," the new National Gallery of Art exhibit that opened to the public yesterday.

His Eminence offered a grace note to **Catherine B. Reynolds** whose **foundation**, along with General Dynamics Corp., made possible the show that, in chronological form, presents a novel overview of the Spanish artist's work in tapestries, portraits, prints and drawings - all highlighting his interpretation and insights into women of his time.

"I'd say he liked women," Buffy Cafritz was moved to say during the pre-dinner reception that had male and female viewers alike gazing immodestly at Goya's twin Maja paintings: one famously naked, the other clothed. Formally clad women among them would have given his opulently dressed images of aristocratic ladies some competition, especially since glamorously gowned guests included Queen Noor of Jordan, Lady (**Catherine**) Meyer, Grega Daly, Joanne Mason, Spanish Institute President Immaculada de Hapsburgo, Vicki Sant, Polly Kraft, Jacqueline Leland and Ann Jordan. Acclaimed soprano Renee Fleming was on hand for a special pre-dinner performance as was classical guitarist Christopher Parkening.

Possibly the most relaxed man in the room was Kennedy Center President Michael Kaiser, noting with relief that outside of his normal venue he wasn't in charge of seeing that everyone had a good time for a change. Trumpeting heralds, exquisitely colorful floral arrangements and a meal of Spanish dishes and wine preceded by tapas provided a robust tone for a delightful and captivating evening.

Caption:

Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia (left with wife Maureen) and Sandra Day O'Connor (with her husband, John O'Connor) conversed before dinner at the National Gallery of Art's opening of "Goya: Images of Women." Exhibition co-sponsor **Catherine**

B. Reynolds (below left) was all smiles as her daughter, Megan, received a hug from Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens. [2 Photos by James R. Brantley/The Washington Times]

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