

Capitoline Venus goes to Washington

Roman artifact was stolen by Napoleon in 1797, returned in 1816

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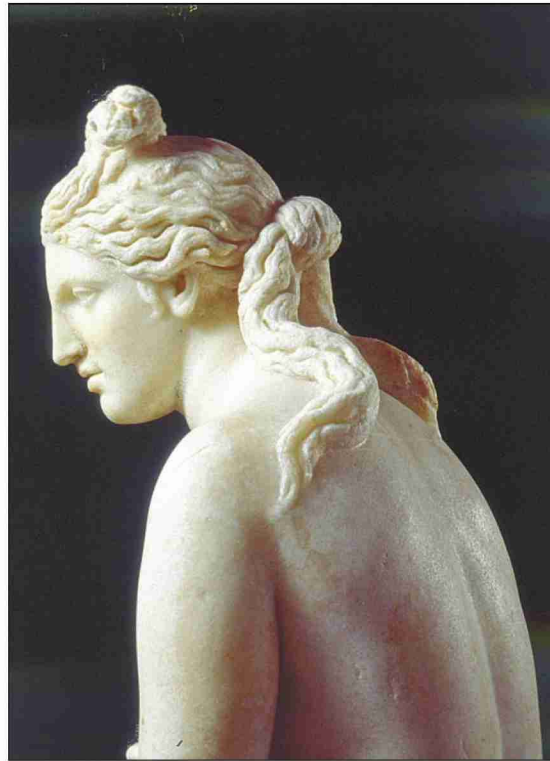
WASHINGTON — The Capitoline Venus, one of the most precious and best preserved artifacts from Roman antiquity, is visiting Washington for the summer.

The National Gallery of Art announced that the famed statue, making its first voyage ever across the Atlantic, will reside in the rotunda of the West Building until September.

Beginning today, the public will be able to see the masterpiece that was stolen from its Roman home by Napoleon in 1797 and then returned in 1816 to its primary home, the Capitoline Museum. This particular Venus inspired a short story by Mark Twain and was photographed for Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel "The Marble Faun."

Earl Powell, the gallery's director, said the setting for the 6-foot statue was ideal. "We are thrilled to offer this

once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the Capitoline Venus outside of Rome," Powell said in a statement. "The Venus will feel right at home in our West Building Rotunda, which was designed by John Russell Pope and was based on the Pantheon in Rome."



MUSEI CAPITOLINI

The National Gallery of Art in Washington welcomes the Capitoline Venus, and will display the masterpiece in its West Building Rotunda.

