



PRESS RELEASE

from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTS TWO NEW MEMBERS

Margot Bogert, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, announces the election of two new members, **Aso O. Tavitian** and **George Wachter**. Bogert comments, “The Frick is a wonderfully active institution, with a staff, Board, Council, and supporters equally committed to presenting for the public a highly acclaimed range of special and permanent collection exhibitions, library initiatives, concerts, and education programs. Another important focus of our mission is the preservation of the 93-year-old Frick residence and the assurance of its enduring capacity in the years ahead. The Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome two new members whose wise counsel and support will prove tremendous assets moving forward in all of these efforts.” Adds Director Anne L. Poulet, “Aso Tavitian and George Wachter have each displayed a keen appreciation and commitment to The Frick Collection and its educational mission. We have enjoyed their collaboration as supporters, and we are delighted that both are increasing their involvement by joining the Board.” Additionally, in June of 2007, **Franklin (Fritz) W. Hobbs IV** joined the Board of Trustees, making a total of three new members in the past year.

ASO O. TAVITIAN

Businessman **Aso O. Tavitian** has been a Frick Collection supporter for many years and joined the Director’s Circle in 2006. Until April 2008, he was the chief executive officer of Syncsort Inc., which he co-founded in 1969. His involvement in this privately held technological company (specializing in the development, marketing, and service of generalized infrastructure software products) continues on the Board level. An art collector, Tavitian favors Old Master paintings, sculpture from the Renaissance period through late eighteenth century, English furniture from the eighteenth century, and Persian rugs. He is also committed to historic preservation, meticulously renovating a townhouse on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, occasionally employing the Frick as a stylistic guide and point of reference. The residence, located across the street from the Mayor’s house, was designed and built in 1899 by famed

American architect C. P. H. Gilbert. On his property in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, Tavitian renovated and added to an 1880s house and re-landscaped the site incorporating an earlier formal garden in the design. Among his other board affiliations is the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, MA. He has been a supporter of the National Trust for Historic Preservation as well as Chesterwood Estate and Museum, Stockbridge, MA, which was the property of sculptor Daniel Chester French.

The performing arts deeply interest Tavitian, and over the years he has actively supported such organizations as the Berkshire Theatre Festival, based in Stockbridge, MA, and the Berkshire Opera Company, in Pittsfield, MA. He is one of the founders and current members of the Board of Trustees of Close Encounters with Music, an organization and concert series based in Great Barrington, MA. Educational philanthropy is critical to him, and he serves as president of the Tavitian Foundation, which primarily supports higher education; through this means, he has offered university scholarships, with a preference given to persons of Armenian and Eastern European descent. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Graduate Faculty of the New School in New York; a member of FACE (French American Cultural Exchange), an organization focused on promoting cultural exchanges between France and the US; and serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of Austen Riggs, a psychiatric hospital with a strong psycho analytical orientation, based in Stockbridge, MA.

Tavitian was a sponsor of the critically acclaimed Frick presentation this winter of Parmigianino's *Antea*, on loan from the Museo di Capodimonte in Naples. In 2007, Tavitian donated a magnificent eighteenth-century picture frame which will be found shortly in the West Gallery holding Frans Hals' *Portrait of an Elderly Man*.

GEORGE WACHTER

George Wachter is a Vice Chairman of Sotheby's North America and South America and a Co-Chairman of Old Master Paintings Worldwide with over thirty years of experience in his field. A member of The Council of The Frick Collection since 2004, he has now become the Council's Chairman and was elected to the Board of Trustees in June as well. Wachter has supported the institution for nearly ten years and co-chaired the 2006 Frick benefit held as an opening-night preview for the Haughton International Fine Art Fair.

He began his professional career at Sotheby's in 1973, being promoted to director of the Old Master Paintings department in New York in 1982. In 1995, he was chosen to be Managing Director of the Fine

Arts division. In his current position, he helps determine the strategy for the Sotheby's Old Masters department in New York, London, Paris, and Amsterdam; he also serves on the executive committee of the Sotheby's North American group.

With a strong knowledge of the market, enthusiasm for Old Master paintings, and a gift for developing strong client relationships, Wachter has played a significant role in expanding the North American market to be one of the dominant centers that it is today. Under his leadership, the Sotheby's January 2007 Important Old Masters sale realized \$110 million at auction. This auction still holds the world record for any Old Masters sale in history, outpacing the noteworthy sale in London (July 10, 2002) where Sotheby's sold a Sir Peter Paul Rubens, *The Massacre of the Innocents*, for a remarkable \$75 million. Wachter has also played a major role in the sale of the most important collections of Old Master paintings ever to come to auction, including paintings from the Estate of Peter Jay Sharp; the Estate of Walter P. Chrysler, Jr; the Collection of the Late Count and Countess Guy du Bouisrouvray; the Collection of Jaime Ortiz Patiño; and numerous others.

ABOUT THE FRICK COLLECTION AND FRICK ART REFERENCE LIBRARY

Henry Clay Frick (1849–1919), the coke and steel industrialist, philanthropist, and art collector, left his New York residence and his remarkable collection of Western paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts to the public “for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a gallery of art, [and] of encouraging and developing the study of fine arts and of advancing the general knowledge of kindred subjects.” Designed and built for Mr. Frick in 1913 and 1914 by Thomas Hastings of Carrère and Hastings, the mansion provides a grand domestic setting reminiscent of the noble houses of Europe for the masterworks from the Renaissance through the nineteenth century that it contains. Of special note are paintings by Bellini, Constable, Corot, Fragonard, Gainsborough, Goya, El Greco, Holbein, Ingres, Manet, Monet, Rembrandt, Renoir, Titian, Turner, Velázquez, Vermeer, Whistler, and other masters. Mr. Frick's superb examples of French eighteenth-century furniture, Italian Renaissance bronzes, and Limoges enamels bring a special ambiance to the galleries, while the interior and exterior gardens and the amenities created since the founder's time in the 1930s and 1970s contribute to the serenity of the visitor's experience.

Renowned for its small, focused exhibitions and for its highly regarded concert series and lectures, The Frick Collection also operates the Frick Art Reference Library, founded by Henry Clay Frick's daughter, Helen Clay Frick, located in an adjoining building at 10 East 71st Street. Both a research library and a photo archive, the Frick Art Reference Library is one of the world's great repositories of documents for the study of Western art. It has served the international art world for more than seventy-five years.

BASIC INFORMATION

General Information Phone: (212) 288-0700

Website: www.frick.org

E-mail: info@frick.org

Where: 1 East 70th Street, near Fifth Avenue.

Hours: open six days a week: 10am to 6pm on Tuesdays through Saturdays; 11am to 5pm on Sundays. Closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Limited hours (11am to 5pm) on Lincoln's Birthday, Election Day, and Veterans Day.

Admission: \$15; senior citizens \$10; students \$5; "pay as you wish" on Sundays from 11am to 1pm

PLEASE NOTE TO YOUR READERS: Children under ten are not admitted to the Collection, and those under sixteen must be accompanied by an adult.

Subway: #6 local (on Lexington Avenue) to 68th Street station; **Bus:** M1, M2, M3, and M4 southbound on Fifth Avenue to 72nd Street and northbound on Madison Avenue to 70th Street

Tour Information: included in the price of admission is an Acoustiguide Audio Tour of the permanent collection. The tour is offered in six languages: English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish.

Museum Shop: the shop is open the same days as the Museum, closing fifteen minutes before the institution.

Group Visits: Please call (212) 288-0700 for details and to make reservations.

Public Programs: A calendar of events is published regularly and is available upon request.

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For further press information, please contact Heidi Rosenau, Manager of Media Relations & Marketing, or Alexis Light, Media Relations & Marketing Coordinator

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