



PRESS RELEASE

from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

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SPRING MEDIA ALERT:

MASTERPIECES OF EUROPEAN PAINTING FROM DULWICH PICTURE GALLERY

March 9, 2010, through May 30, 2010



Rembrandt van Rijn (1606–1669), *A Girl at a Window*, 1645, oil on Canvas, 81.6 x 66 cm, Bourgeois Bequest, 1811, © The Trustees of Dulwich Picture Gallery

The Frick Collection is pleased to announce the loan of nine European paintings from Dulwich Picture Gallery in London, one of the major collections of Old Master pictures in the world, particularly of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The exhibition, which heralds the Gallery's bicentenary in 2011, presents an exciting opportunity to introduce American audiences to this institution's collection through nine of its greatest paintings. Indeed, this exceptional group of works, to be shown exclusively at the Frick from March 9 through May 30, 2010, includes signature masterpieces that seldom travel, many of which have not been on view in the United States in recent years, and, in some cases, never in New York City. Featured are Anthony Van Dyck's *Samson and Delilah*, c. 1619–20; Nicolas Poussin's *Nurture of Jupiter*, c. 1636–37; Rembrandt van Rijn's *Girl at a Window*, 1645; Peter Lely's *Nymphs by a Fountain*, c. 1650; Gerrit Dou's *Woman Playing a Clavichord*, c. 1665;

Bartolomé Esteban Murillo's *Flower Girl*, c. 1665; Jean-Antoine Watteau's *Les Plaisirs du bal*, c. 1717;

Canaletto's *Old Walton Bridge*, 1754; and Thomas Gainsborough's *Elizabeth and Mary Linley—Linley Sisters*, 1771–1772.

Dulwich's collection of paintings was assembled chiefly between 1790 and 1795 by the French art dealer Noel Desenfans in partnership with his Swiss associate, Sir Francis Bourgeois. Commissioned in 1790 by King Stanislaus Augustus of Poland to form a Royal Collection for the Polish people, this extraordinary collection was

amassed by the dealers in five years. Upon the eventual dissolution of Poland and the king's abdication in 1795, Desenfans and Bourgeois found themselves with an extensive inventory of significant paintings. Unable to sell the entire collection or to find a suitable institution to which to entrust it, Bourgeois—owner of the collection following Desenfans's death in 1807—bequeathed it to Dulwich College with the stipulation that it be put on public view. Dulwich Picture Gallery consequently became England's first public art gallery after Bourgeois's death in 1811, opening its doors in 1817. Today the paintings reside in a historic building, designed by the renowned architect Sir John Soane in 1811, with a later twentieth-century addition and a more recent one by Rick Mather in 1999.



Nicolas Poussin (1594–1665), *The Nurture of Jupiter*, c. 1636–37, oil on canvas, 96.2 x 119.6 cm, Bourgeois Bequest, 1811, © The Trustees of Dulwich Picture Gallery



Thomas Gainsborough (1727–1788), *Elizabeth and Mary Linley—The Linley Sisters*, 1771–1772, probably partly repainted 1785, oil on canvas, 199 x 153 cm, Linley Bequest, 1835, © The Trustees of Dulwich Picture Gallery

The exhibition, to be displayed in the Frick's Oval Room and Garden Court, is co-organized by Colin B. Bailey, Associate Director and Peter Jay Sharp Chief Curator at the Frick, and Xavier F. Salomon, Arturo and Holly Melosi Chief Curator at Dulwich. Continuing in the Frick's tradition of presenting masterpieces from acclaimed museums not easily available to the New York public, it will feature works by artists found in the Frick's permanent collection as well as by those not represented but complementary to it. A fully illustrated catalogue, written by Dr. Salomon, will feature an essay on the origins of the collection at Dulwich as well as comprehensive entries on the nine works. Principal funding for the exhibition is provided by Christie's and Melvin R. Seiden. Additional support is generously provided by John and Constance Birkelund, Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Eberstadt, Fiduciary Trust Company International, Barbara G. Fleischman, Francis Finlay, and Hester Diamond. The accompanying

catalogue is made possible by Jon and Barbara Landau. This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

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: \$18; senior citizens \$15; 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

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, provided by Acoustiguide. 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.

150, October 9, 2009

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

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