



PRESS RELEASE

from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

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FRICK'S CENTER FOR THE HISTORY OF COLLECTING IN AMERICA TO AWARD NEW \$25,000 BIENNIAL BOOK PRIZE

Having created a Center for the History of Collecting in America in 2007, The Frick Collection and Frick Art Reference Library are now pleased to announce the launch of a generous book prize. The award, to be made biennially, will be given in recognition of scholarly excellence for a completed publication that contributes significantly to the study of the history of collecting in America. Ultimately, the aim of the Center in making this award is to encourage further study and foster a greater awareness of the relevance of the subject in the history of art and culture. The launch of this prize, which will be funded for a six-year period by Sotheby's, was announced at a dinner held in late January at The Frick Collection. The first award will be given in November 2009. Scholarly printed publications, including museum exhibition catalogues, will be considered eligible for the Sotheby's Prize. The subject of the publication may address collecting in the United States in any category of the fine and decorative arts, Western or non-Western, from Colonial times to the present.

Comments Frick Director Anne Poulet, "The Center for the History of Collecting in America already offers a rich array of programming, all intended to encourage scholarship in this emerging area of art historical inquiry. The Center hosts a fellowship program, an annual symposium, dynamic collaborative academic courses, and much more. The Sotheby's Prize is a notable and exciting addition, not just recognizing the achievements of those the Center hopes to engage, but, for enabling recipients to further their research. It is hoped that prize winners will be more able to take sabbaticals from teaching, curatorial, and other professional obligations, and, thus, have the time and means to pursue new research

in this valuable area of study. We are grateful to Sotheby's for generously funding the award program over the next six years, during which time three prizes will be given. As a result of this initiative, we anticipate the fulfillment of our core goal, which is to see scholarship on this fascinating topic flourish." Adds Inge Reist, Director of the Center for the History of Collecting in America, "In so many ways, a distinguished publication stands as the summation of the programs of the Center, which supports scholarship through fellowships and research tools, encourages dialogue through symposia, and stimulates interest in the field through graduate courses. We couldn't be more thrilled to honor and encourage scholars in this manner."

For information and inquires regarding the prize, please contact center@frick.org.

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.

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. She vowed to provide a curious and growing public of art researchers with resources as valuable to them as her father's art collection came to be to the world's art lovers as one of the world's most treasured house museums. The mission of the Library was, and remains, to make available to a broad community of researchers materials for the study of art in the Western tradition from the fourth to the mid-twentieth century. With its emphasis on object-oriented research, the Library amassed a photo archive that now boasts documented images of more than one million, in many cases still unpublished, works of art. Complementing this are the Library's nearly 300,000 books, periodicals, electronic resources, and annotated auction and exhibition catalogues. The collection is unrivaled in the United States, making it one of the world's most

valued art research centers and the most comprehensive resource on the history of collecting and patronage. Today, scholars know that the Library's collections afford them unique combinations of images and bibliographic materials that bear witness to specific moments of creation and transfer of ownership, so essential to documenting individual works of art and the impulses of collectors.

BASIC INFORMATION

General Information Phone (Collection): (212) 288-0700

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Web site: www.frick.org

E-mail: info@frick.org

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

Where (Library): 10 East 71st Street, between Fifth and Madison Avenues

Hours (Collection) 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.

Hours (Library): 10:00am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday, and 9:30am to 1:00pm Saturdays. Closed Sundays, Holiday weekends, Saturdays in June and July, the month of August. Following its August closing, the Library will re-open to the public the day after Labor Day (Tuesday, September 6, 2005).

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

Admission (Library): use of the Library is free

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; crosstown M72 stopping eastbound on Madison at 70th Street or westbound on Fifth Avenue at 72nd Street or 69th Street

Collection 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 to the Collection: 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 the Media Relations & Marketing Office

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