

# PRESS RELEASE

from

## THE FRICK COLLECTION

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### THE FRICK COLLECTION MARKS ITS 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

#### CELEBRATIONS INCLUDE A SUMMER ARCHITECTURAL DISPLAY, EDUCATION PROGRAMS, A NEW FILM, A FREE PUBLIC DAY, AND MORE



Seventy-five years ago, the intention of Henry Clay Frick (1849–1919) to present to New York City his extraordinary art collection and magnificent mansion at 1 East 70<sup>th</sup> Street was realized with the opening of The Frick Collection. The museum’s opening in 1935 was accompanied by national headlines, and present at the inaugural celebration were luminaries of the social and political worlds. Invited were Colonel and Mrs. Charles Lindbergh as well as members of the Astor, Bache, Carnegie, Mellon, Rockefeller, Straus, Sulzberger,

Vanderbilt, and Warburg families. Critics spoke of it as a great “legacy of beauty” and one where the quality of its collection was “unsurpassed anywhere.” That same year, the Frick Art Reference Library (founded in 1920 by Frick’s daughter, Helen) was greatly expanded and moved into a new building on the same lot as the original Frick mansion. Thus, 2010 is a significant milestone for the entire institution, and to mark the occasion, the Frick will present a number of celebrations, programs, and new offerings, culminating with a free day on **December 16, 2010**, the anniversary of the museum’s public opening in 1935. **Please consult**

<http://www.frick.org/anniversary> for further information and additions to the 2010 celebrations.



The Garden Court undergoing planting experiments in August 1935 prior its public opening that December. The Frick Collection/Frick Art Reference Library Archives. Photo: Alfred Cook

## SUMMER DISPLAY EXPLORES THE 1935 TRANSFORMATION OF THE MANSION INTO A MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

With Henry Clay Frick's death in 1919, his will was made public and the destiny of his collection and mansion as a museum was formalized, but not yet set into motion. After the death of his wife, Adelaide, in 1931, the Board of Trustees established by Mr. Frick's will became engaged in discussions about how to create a museum from this legacy. Ultimately, the house, built in 1913–14 by Thomas Hastings (1860–1929) of Carrère and Hastings, underwent expansion in order to transform it into a space suitable as a public institution. Significantly and sensitively enlarged by architect John Russell Pope (1873–1937), the resulting building opened to a fascinated public in December 1935. This summer, an educational display in the Cabinet, *From Mansion to Museum: The Frick Collection Celebrates Seventy-Five Years*, presents a group of related architectural drawings, photographs, and other materials. At the centerpiece of this display is a selection of elegant elevations executed for Pope by the artist Angelo Magnanti (1879–1969). These large-scale illustrations were a gift to the museum's first director, Frederick Mortimer Clapp (1879–1969), presented in 1935 in honor of the museum's opening. They offer insights into Pope's vision for the series of new rooms that have since become beloved galleries and contemplative spaces. Also included will be a newly acquired pen and ink drawing by Vernon Howe Bailey (1874–1953) depicting the construction of the Frick Art Reference Library at 10 East 71st Street, designed by Pope in 1933. Bailey's drawing was commissioned by *The New York Sun* for its daily feature, "Intimate Sketches of New York City," and appeared in the April 23, 1934, issue. A floor plan accompanied by archival and new photography will elucidate the most significant alterations to The Frick Collection's interior and, together with the drawings, will tell the story of transforming the once-private mansion into a public museum. This display will be on view from **June 22 through September 5, 2010**.

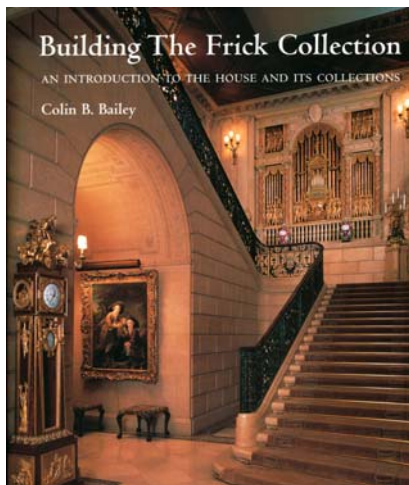


John Russell Pope photographed by Pirie MacDonald around 1916. Collection of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York

## A NEW ORIENTATION FILM DELIGHTS VISITORS

In anticipation of this anniversary year, the Frick has recently launched a new visitor education film, which replaces a seventeen-year-old slide-based production. The film airs at the museum daily, three times every hour, beginning at 10:20 a.m. Narrated by members of the Frick's senior staff, this eleven-minute presentation was produced and directed by the award-winning filmmaker Christopher Noey. Shot in HD throughout the Frick's refurbished and relit galleries, it tells the story of Mr. Frick, his home, and his art collection and includes recently restored archival footage and other previously unreleased materials.

## ***BUILDING THE FRICK COLLECTION*** **AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HOUSE AND ITS COLLECTIONS**



Colin B. Bailey, the Frick's Associate Director and Peter Jay Sharp Chief Curator, is the author of an acclaimed publication that documents the building at 1 East 70<sup>th</sup> Street and explores how the creation of this residence influenced the taste of the collector in the final years of his life. ***Building The Frick Collection*** also addresses the transition from mansion to public museum subsequently undertaken by John Russell Pope. Using recently acquired and hitherto unpublished archival materials, Bailey carefully documents the history of the house and its owner and reveals for the first time Frick's passionate involvement in the project. By drawing upon recent studies of domestic architecture and interior decoration during the Gilded Age, he places Frick's achievement in context. Elegantly written and lavishly illustrated, the book is intended for a general readership while also making an important contribution to the history of collecting in twentieth-century New York. It is available in softcover (\$14.95) and hardcover (\$25.95) in the Museum Shop of the Frick, on the institution's Web site ([www.frick.org](http://www.frick.org)), and by phone (212) 547-6848.

Bailey is presently researching and writing the museum's first book on its magnificent Fragonard Room and the paintings installed there since Henry Clay Frick purchased them through art dealer Joseph Duveen from the estate of J. P. Morgan. This room, recently relit and refurbished, has long been a signature gallery at the Frick, and Bailey's book will explore the fascinating story of its centerpiece, the Progress of Love panels by Jean-Honoré Fragonard (1732–1806) that are widely considered to be the artist's masterpiece. Published by D. Giles Limited, London, this well illustrated publication is forthcoming.



The Fragonard Room, The Frick Collection, New York.  
Photo: Michael Bodycomb

## **EDUCATION PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHT THE FRICK'S ANNIVERSARY AND ADDRESS MANY AUDIENCES**

**LECTURE: *A GRAND CONVERSION: TRANSFORMING THE FRICK RESIDENCE INTO A MUSEUM***  
**Saturday, June 26, 2010, 2:00 p.m.**

This public lecture by historian Stephen McLeod Bedford will examine the experience of architect John Russell Pope in museum design and his skillful conversion of a home into The Frick Collection. Bedford is the author of the acclaimed monograph ***John Russell Pope: Architect of Empire***. *This lecture is free with admission, and seating does not require a reservation. Lecture seating is first come, first served.*

## **GALLERY TALK: "NEW" ACQUISITIONS**

**Saturday, June 5, 12:00 noon**

Although Henry Clay Frick created one of the world's great art collections, it continued to grow after his death. Explore the remarkable acquisitions made since 1919 with Curator Denise Allen. *Free with museum admission. Online reservations are required.*

## **DOCENT TALKS: ROOMS WITH A VIEW**

**Sundays and Tuesdays, June 1 through August 1, 2010, 3:00 p.m.**

Enjoy ten-minute presentations of the distinctive and beautiful rooms of The Frick Collection, with views inside and out, from the vantage point of 75 years of history since the opening of The Frick Collection to the public. *Upon arrival, please sign up at the Visitors Desk in the entrance hall of The Frick Collection. Free with museum admission. No reservations are necessary.*

## **GALLERY CONVERSATIONS**

**Saturdays, June 12 and July 10, 12:00 noon**

In honor of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Gallery Conversations will explore masterpieces acquired in 1935, the year The Frick Collection opened to the public. *Free with museum admission. Online reservations are required.*

## **ART DIALOGUES**

**Fridays, June 11, July 9, August 13, 6:30 p.m.**

For young professionals, dialogues offer the dual pleasures of a long look at a work of art and the chance to meet like-minded art-lovers. *Free after hours admission. Online reservations are required.*

## **SUNDAY SKETCH**

**Sundays, June 13, 27, July 11, 25; between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.**

Visitors are invited to sketch architectural views of the Frick from inside or outside the building. All ages over ten are welcome every other Sunday in the months of June and July. *Free with museum admission. No reservations are necessary.*

## **STUDENTS**

### **ART CLUB (Middle School)**

**Saturdays, June 19, July 17, August 14, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Middle school students will write and illustrate imaginative museum stories in the galleries of the Frick, using the artwork and architecture as inspiration. *Classes are free. Online reservations are required.*

### **SUMMER STUDY PROJECTS (High School Seniors and Undergraduates, by application only).**

Summer Study Projects provides interested students with the opportunity to do research and work independently in the Collection and the Frick Art Reference Library throughout the summer. This summer, in honor of this anniversary year, students will be asked to complete projects related to the Frick's 1935 opening as a museum. Each Summer Study Project will culminate in a final presentation during the week of August 10. *Please contact the Education office for more information and to request an application: [students@frick.org](mailto:students@frick.org).*

## **ANNIVERSARY YEAR CULMINATES WITH DAY OF FREE ADMISSION: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2010**

To mark the actual anniversary of the Frick's debut as a museum, the institution will be open to the public at no charge on **Thursday, December 16, 2010**. That is the precise month and day when seventy-five years ago fascinated New Yorkers first wandered freely through the magnificent galleries of fine and decorative arts.

## ABOUT THE FRICK COLLECTION

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. Fine artists represented include Antico, Bellini, Constable, Corot, Fragonard, Gainsborough, Goya, El Greco, Holbein, Houdon, Ingres, Manet, Monet, Rembrandt, Renoir, Riccio, Titian, Turner, Velázquez, Vermeer, and Whistler.

### BASIC INFORMATION

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

**Web site:** [www.frick.org](http://www.frick.org)

**E-mail:** [info@frick.org](mailto:info@frick.org)

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

**Hours: open six days a week:** 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays through Saturdays; 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. Closed Mondays, New Year’s Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Limited hours (11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) on Lincoln’s Birthday, Election Day, and Veterans Day.

**Admission:** \$18; senior citizens \$12; students \$5; “pay as you wish” on Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

<b>PLEASE NOTE TO YOUR READERS: Children under ten are not admitted to the Collection.</b>
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**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 70<sup>th</sup> Street or westbound on Fifth Avenue at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street or 69<sup>th</sup> Street

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

**Gallery Talks and Education Programs:** an array of docent-led discussions and other gallery talks are now offered, many included with admission. Please refer to our website for further information.

**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.

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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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