



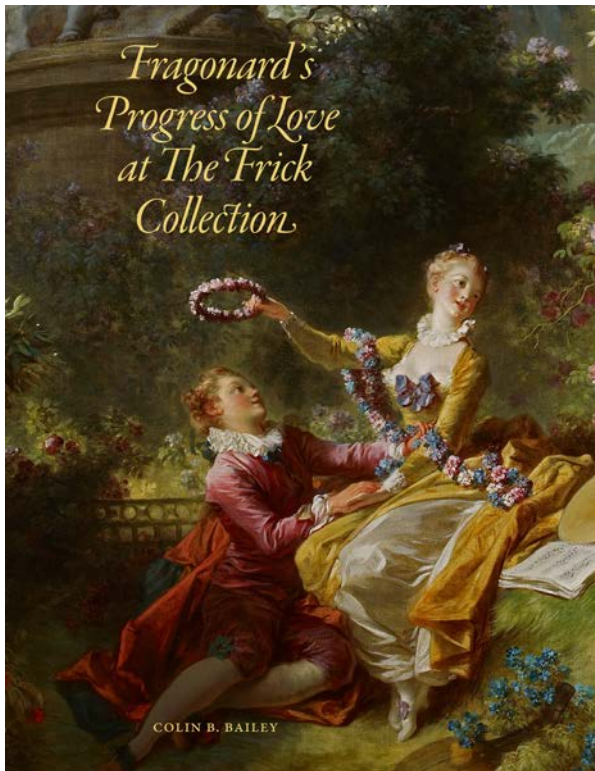
PRESS RELEASE

from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

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KEENLY AWAITED BOOK TO BE PUBLISHED THIS FALL ON THE RICH STORY OF FRAGONARD'S MASTERPIECE, THE PROGRESS OF LOVE A TALE OF TASTEMAKERS AND COLLECTORS



Jean-Honoré Fragonard's *Progress of Love* is one of the great painted ensembles of French eighteenth-century art and is considered to be the artist's masterpiece. For more than seventy-five years, the panels have been a highlight of The Frick Collection. **Colin B. Bailey's** keenly awaited and beautifully illustrated book published in September by the museum in association with D. Giles Limited provides an invaluable and engaging resource on the sequence and meaning of the panels in the series. It explores the history of the work from its conception in France to its rediscovery by two great American collectors more than one hundred years later and tells the fascinating story of how the group of canvases found a

permanent home in the New York City mansion of Henry Clay Frick, where the museum's visitors enjoy them today. The tale, however, has resonance and appeal beyond the walls of the institution. A study of these beautiful panels offers a window into the complex world of art and architectural tastemakers and patronage in eighteenth-century France, as well as the history of collecting in Europe and America during the two centuries that followed their creation. *Fragonard's Progress of Love at The Frick Collection* was written by Bailey, the Frick's Associate Director and Peter Jay Sharp Curator. In celebration of the early September release of the book, the Frick will host a free public lecture and book-signing.

This publication is the result of several years of new—and heretofore unpublished—research by author Colin B. Bailey. The richly illustrated book features more than 135 color images of the masterpiece and details thereof, much of it new photography; as well as archival and contemporary views of the rooms that Fragonard’s series has occupied, plans, original sketches, and comparative images.

Comments Bailey, “To write a history of the Fragonard Room was a challenge I considered taking on shortly after arriving at the Frick in October 2000. It has always been my favorite gallery in any museum, and I have studied the pictures and taught eighteenth-century French art from them for longer than I care to remember. When the Frick renovated the room and its lighting system in 2007, we had the opportunity to view the pictures afresh, which renewed my commitment to publish their complete story. But this book simply could not have been written without the support of almost every colleague in the curatorial department. Indeed, the book is reflective of the deep resources and expertise of the Frick’s curatorial and library staff and draws on a great body of research materials, new photographs and photomontages, x-rays and site plans, and archival materials relating to J. P. Morgan and Henry Clay Frick as collectors. For the first time, it will be possible to visualize the different arrangement of Fragonard’s series in its three homes prior to the move to East 70th Street in 1915.”



Reconstructed view of room at Louveciennes, showing the intended orientation of Fragonard’s Progress of Love as commissioned for the comtesse du Barry; photomontage by Michael Bodycomb

ABOUT FRAGONARD’S MASTERPIECE AND HOW IT CAME TO BE IN NEW YORK CITY



The Fragonard Room as presented today at The Frick Collection, New York; photo: Michael Bodycomb

Jean-Honoré Fragonard (1732–1806) was commissioned in 1771 to complete four large canvases for the comtesse du Barry, the consort of Louis XV. They were installed in 1772 in the pavilion in Louveciennes built for her outside of Paris by the king. By 1773 the canvases—*The Pursuit*, *The Meeting*, *The Lover Crowned*, and *Love Letters*—had been rejected by Du Barry and returned to the artist. In 1790,

Fragonard moved the canvases to his cousin's house, the Villa Maubert, in Grasse, and over the course of the year, he painted ten additional panels: two large-scale works, *Love Triumphant* and *Reverie*; four narrow canvases depicting hollyhocks, and four overdoors of putti. Sold by the Maubert estate to the dealer Agnew's in 1898, the panels subsequently decorated a drawing room in the London home of financier and art collector J. P. Morgan. With his death, the works passed through the hands of dealer Joseph Duveen, who in 1915 brokered their sale to industrialist and collector Henry Clay Frick, and arranged for their installation in the Fifth Avenue museum that now houses the celebrated museum.

***Fragonard's Progress of Love at The Frick Collection* (192 pages; hardcover \$44.95, member price \$40.46; softcover \$25.00, member price \$22.50) will be available starting this fall at the Museum Shop of the Frick, on the institution's Web site <http://www.shopfrick.org/index.htm>, and by phone 212.547.6848.**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Colin B. Bailey is Associate Director and Peter Jay Sharp Chief Curator of The Frick Collection, New York, and an Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. He is organizing a major upcoming exhibition and catalogue at the Frick, *Renoir, Impressionism, and the Full-Length Format* (2012). Other recent publications include *Watteau to Degas: French Drawings from the Frits Lugt Collection* (2009); *Renoir Landscapes, 1865–1883* (2007); and *The Age of Watteau, Chardin, and Fragonard: Masterpieces of Eighteenth-Century French Genre Painting* (2003). His book *Patriotic Taste: Collecting Modern Art in Pre-Revolutionary Paris* was awarded the Mitchell Prize for the best art history book of 2002–3.



Colin B. Bailey, Associate Director and Peter Jay Sharp Chief Curator of The Frick Collection, New York; photo: Michael Bodycomb

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE AND BOOK SIGNING AT THE FRICK COLLECTION

Fragonard's Progress of Love: A Site-Specific Installation?

Wednesday, September 14, 6:00 p.m.; doors open at 5:45 p.m.

Colin B. Bailey, Associate Director and Peter Jay Sharp Chief Curator, The Frick Collection

Jean-Honoré Fragonard's *Progress of Love* is considered by many to be the artist's masterpiece and one of the great works of eighteenth-century French art. This lecture will explore the circumstances surrounding the commission, installation, and eventual rejection of the four canvases painted for Madame du Barry's pavilion at Louveciennes. A book signing for Dr. Bailey's new monograph, *Fragonard's Progress of Love at The Frick Collection*, will follow the lecture. *This event is free, and no reservations are necessary.*

For Further Book Information and Review Copies:

In the UK, contact Liz Japes, D. Giles Ltd
Telephone: +44 (0)1273 480225
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In the USA contact Karen Lunstead, Marketing Manager, U.S.A., D. Giles Ltd.
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For Further General Information on The Frick Collection, contact Heidi Rosenau, Head of Media Relations & Marketing, or Alexis Light, Manager of Media Relations & Marketing
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BASIC INFORMATION

General Information Phone: 212 288.0700

Web site: 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 \$10; "pay as you wish" on Sundays from 11am to 1pm

PLEASE NOTE TO YOUR READERS: Children under ten are not admitted to the Collection.
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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

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.

#180, August 3, 2011