



PRESS RELEASE

from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

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FRICK AND THE BNP PARIBAS FOUNDATION PUBLISH A NEW GUIDE TO THE COLLECTION

For the first time in more than ten years, The Frick Collection has published a combined general guide to its collections, history, and building, a softcover volume that features the most recent scholarship and new photography. The book has been produced with the BNP Paribas Foundation, which has created a series of beautifully designed popular guides to French museums. The Frick publication is only the second produced in the United States and will be available in June in both English and French.

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, 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. The museum opened to the public more than seventy-five years ago, in 1935, and has become a model for similar collector-founded institutions worldwide. Visitors today appreciate the Frick for its unparalleled domestic setting, its peerless masterpieces of European art in all media, and the romance of its association with America’s Gilded Age. They encounter the work of a wide range of artists including Duccio, Antico, Verrocchio, Bellini, Severo da Ravenna, Holbein, Titian, Bronzino, El Greco,



Riccio, Susini, Rembrandt, Velázquez, Vermeer, Boule, Joubert, Lacroix, Boucher, Carlin, Fragonard, Riesener, Clodion, Hogarth, Gainsborough, Houdon, Goya, Turner, Constable, Ingres, Corot, Manet, Degas, Renoir, and Whistler.

Comments Frick Director Anne L. Poulet, “It is a particular pleasure for me to introduce the latest book devoted to The Frick Collection in which the reader will find succinct and up-to-date information on the Frick’s founder and the mansion he built. Above all, it contains studies of a selection of the masterpieces that he acquired, along with those that entered the collection after his death. The text in this volume has been contributed by our curators, each of whom is a specialist in his or her given area, and reflects the latest scholarship available. We are delighted to participate in the prestigious series established by the BNP Paribas Foundation. It is gratifying to know that this beautifully produced and meticulously edited book will serve as a fitting souvenir of a visit to the Frick, and inspire its readers to return often.”

Adds Associate Director and Peter Jay Sharp Chief Curator Colin B. Bailey, “We are delighted to have collaborated with the BNP Paribas Foundation to bring forth a new guide to The Frick Collection. Indeed, in the years since we produced the last broad-based guides [*Art in The Frick Collection*, 1996, and *The Frick Collection: A Tour*, 1998] our staff members have been engaged in a wide range of research on the holdings of the institution. In addition, the Collection has been able to acquire, through purchase and gifts, several remarkable works of art that are also included in the new publication. The history of the house has been a subject of much research as well, and in the last five years especially many of the galleries enjoyed by the public have been refurbished, relit, and rephotographed, as has the entire collection. This new book offers the public a thrilling update on the institution and how it is experienced today. For that, we thank BNP Paribas, as well as the many specialists who contributed to the project.”

The book begins with a Foreword by Anne L. Poulet, and contains an essay by Colin B. Bailey, who addresses the history of the mansion and its transition into a public museum building. Paintings in the collection are discussed by Bailey and a curatorial team of specialists, including Assistant Curator Margaret Iacono and Andrew Mellon Fellows Pablo Pérez d’Ors and Susannah Rutherglen. Sculpture is reviewed by independent scholar Caitlin F. Henningsen, and decorative arts in the collection are discussed by Associate Curator Charlotte Vignon, Conservator Joseph Godla, and independent scholar Joanna Sheers. Senior Curator Susan Grace Galassi has re-examined a selection of works on paper.

Published by The Frick Collection in conjunction with BNP Paribas, *The Frick Collection, New York* is available in English and French editions (softcover, 128 pages, \$25.00 with 150 color illustrations). The

book will be available in June in the Museum Shop of the Frick, on the institution's Web site (www.frick.org), and by phone 212.547.6848. Paribas guides are distributed in Europe through the Réunion des musées nationaux.

ABOUT THE BNP PARIBAS FOUNDATION

The BNP Paribas Foundation created its collection of museum books in 1987. This collection, which now counts nearly 60 titles, enables a broad public to discover and enjoy the cultural wealth of museums and monuments. Richly illustrated, the works are written by the curators of the establishments, recounting the history of these remarkable institutions and their collections. The success of this initiative in France led to works on foreign museums. In Switzerland, with support from BNP Paribas Switzerland, 20 books have been published in the *Musées Suisses* collection, and seven books have been published in Germany. In Portugal, books have been published in the National Coach Museum and the Orient Museum in Lisbon. Other books in the collection present the Musées des Beaux-Arts in Montreal Canada and, in the United States, the European collections of LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum of Art).

Under the aegis of the Fondation de France, the BNP Paribas Foundation strives to preserve and bring to a wider public the treasures in museums, to encourage artists and performers in disciplines that attract little corporate funding, and to finance state-of-the-art research projects (in the medical and environmental field). The BNP Paribas Foundation also supports education, social integration, and projects related to people with disabilities. The point of reference in the group in the matter of arts funding, and working closely with its network in France and abroad, the BNP Paribas Foundation backs each of its programs for its entire duration. www.mecenas.bnpparibas.com

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.

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, Head of Media Relations & Marketing, or Alexis Light, Manager of Media Relations & Marketing; Media Relations Phone: 212.547.6844 and E-mail address: mediarelations@frick.org