

# PRESS RELEASE

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## THE FRICK COLLECTION

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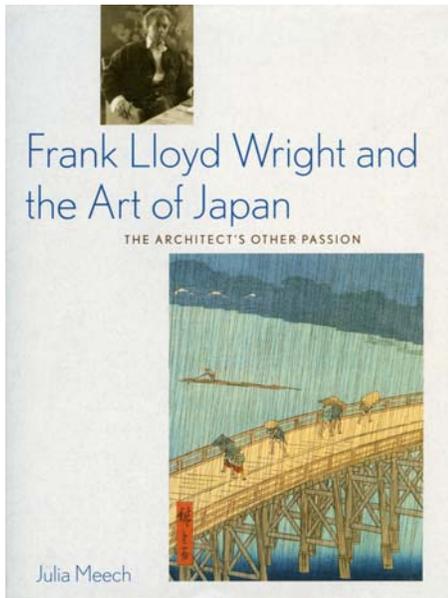
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### FRICK'S CENTER FOR THE HISTORY OF COLLECTING IN AMERICA NAMES JULIA MEECH FIRST WINNER OF ITS BIENNIAL \$25,000 BOOK PRIZE

The Frick's **Center for the History of Collecting in America** announces that **Julia Meech** has been named the first winner of its Sotheby's Book Prize for her critically acclaimed monograph *Frank Lloyd Wright and the Art of Japan: The Architect's Other Passion* (Harry N. Abrams in association with the Japan Society). Comments Frick Director Anne Poulet, "The goal of the Center is to stimulate awareness and study of art collecting in this country, to foster research, and to encourage scholarly discourse. The newly created prize (formally known as the **Sotheby's Prize for a Distinguished Publication on the History of Collecting in America**) is a critical element toward these efforts. It also represents the summation of a wide range of activities undertaken in a very short time by the Center, which was established only two years ago at the Frick Art Reference Library. Indeed, the Center's fellowships and research tools avail scholars of the time, funds, and information needed to prepare a publication in this growing field; its academic programs ensure that the history of art collecting is accepted and encouraged as an essential part of university art history curricula. Furthermore, its symposia stimulate explorations of uncharted areas of collecting history. We offer our gratitude to Sotheby's, which has agreed to fund the biennial prize for a period of six years, and we extend our sincere congratulations to author Julia Meech for her wonderfully researched publication. I look forward to presenting the award to her formally at a reception hosted at The Frick Collection on December 16."



## ABOUT THE PUBLICATION AND AUTHOR



Renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright was an avid and important collector and dealer of Asian art. His personal collection included thousands of Japanese color woodblock prints, and it was his discerning eye that helped build the foremost private holdings in the United States, which in turn became the cornerstones of the collections at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Art Institute of Chicago; and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Meech's book, which accompanied a 2001 exhibition at the Japan Society Gallery in New York, examines Wright's passion for Japanese art and illuminates the profound impact it had on his personal and professional life. Comments Inge Reist, Director of the Center for the History of Collecting in America, "This beautiful publication presents a comparatively little known aspect of Frank Lloyd

Wright as it deftly positions his dealing and collecting activities in the context of the larger art market in the U.S. and abroad. Ultimately, Meech's study not only offers a deeply researched view of one man's collecting, but also explores to the limit the reasons why the cultural climate of the times made Wright so susceptible to the lure of Japan. This publication was met immediately with acclaim and has proven to be an authoritative source on its subject, so we are thrilled that its author is the first recipient of the biennial Sotheby's Book Prize."

Julia Meech is an independent scholar living in New York City. She is Curator of the John C. Weber Collection, editor of the journal *Impressions* for the Japanese Art Society of America, and Consultant to the Department of Japanese Art at Christie's New York. She holds a Ph.D. in art history from Harvard University. Her publications include *Twelve Japanese Screens* (The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1979), *The World of the Meiji Print* (Weatherhill, 1986), and *Rain and Snow* (Japan Society, 1993). She co-curated and co-edited *Designed for Pleasure* (Asia Society and Japanese Art Society of America, 2008). Her research on Frank Lloyd Wright's collection of Japanese art began in the 1970s when she was Associate Curator, The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Nominations for the 2009 Sotheby's Book Prize were requested from a range of art world specialists, with the goal in mind of recognizing works of scholarly excellence that contribute to this field of research. Volumes were eligible if published in the last ten years and focused on collecting in any category of the fine and decorative arts, Western or non-Western, from Colonial times to the present. Judging criteria included originality of research, contributions to the study of the history of art and culture, and whether the book sets the activity of art collecting within a broader cultural, social, economic, or political context. **For information and inquires regarding the prize, please contact [center@frick.org](mailto:center@frick.org).**

## **ABOUT SOTHEBY'S**

Sotheby's is a global company that engages in art auction, private sales and art-related financing activities. The Company operates in forty countries, with principal salesrooms located in New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris. The Company also regularly conducts auctions in six other salesrooms around the world.

## **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. 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. Mr. Frick's superb examples of French eighteenth-century and Italian Renaissance furniture, , Sèvres porcelain, 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

**General Information Phone (Library):** (212) 288 8700

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

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

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

**Where (Library):** 10 East 71<sup>st</sup> 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):** \$18; senior citizens \$12; students \$5; "pay as you wish" on Sundays from 11am to 1pm.

**Admission (Library):** use of the Library is free

<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

**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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