

Ruffles & Ribbons: Fashion Plates from the Time of Marie Antoinette

Cabinet Gallery Installation to Open in Conjunction with the Frick's Exhibition
Gainsborough: The Fashion of Portraiture

APRIL 1 THROUGH AUGUST 3, 2026



New York (February 3, 2026) — Starting April 1, The Frick Collection will present *Ruffles & Ribbons: Fashion Plates from the Time of Marie Antoinette* in the Cabinet Gallery, displaying twenty-four hand-colored engravings, known as fashion plates, depicting French dress in the late eighteenth century. This marks the Frick's first gallery presentation drawn entirely from the Frick Art Research Library's holdings.

Organized in conjunction with the special exhibition *Gainsborough: The Fashion of Portraiture*, which opens on February 12, the installation showcases a selection of captivating prints from the Frick Art Research Library's set of *Galerie des modes et costumes français* (1778–87), the largest and most influential fashion plate series of its time. The plates offer rare insights into the world of clothing and accessories during the reign of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. French designs as captured in the prints also influenced fashion farther afield, as seen in Gainsborough's contemporaneous portraits of British society figures.



Created by talented designers and engravers in Paris, *Galerie des modes* was a pioneering precursor to modern fashion magazines. Visitors will discover detailed representations of diverse ensembles, from fanciful headdresses to voluminous gowns, reflecting the tastes of an increasingly fashion-conscious public. While no complete set of *Galerie des modes* survives today—many were discarded when fashions changed, and others may have been destroyed during the French Revolution due to their ties to the ancien régime—the Frick Art Research Library houses an exceptional collection of 370 original prints, a gift of Melinda Martin Sullivan in 2016. Many other extant sets of the plates are bound, unlike the loose-leaf set at the Frick Art Research Library, making this display a rare opportunity for visitors to discover an array of these prints in a museum setting.

Ruffles & Ribbons: Fashion Plates from the Time of Marie Antoinette is organized by Yifu Liu, the Frick’s 2024–26 Anne L. Poulet Curatorial Fellow, and will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue. This exhibition is made possible by The Gilbert & Ildiko Butler Family Foundation, Inc.; Michael and Jane Horvitz; The Helen Clay Frick Foundation; the Mellon Foundation; Brook and Melissa Dane; and The Eden Arts Foundation.

ACCOMPANYING PUBLICATION

A catalogue authored by Liu will be available for purchase alongside the exhibition. The beautifully illustrated publication features detailed images, caption translations, and accompanying descriptions for all twenty-four fashion plates in the show. Liu’s commentary provides historical context for the publication of *Galerie des modes* and offers insights into each print, exploring the figures, fashions, and facets of French culture and everyday life in the late eighteenth century.

The hardcover catalogue is published by The Frick Collection and funded in part by The Eden Arts Foundation (\$40; members 20% off in-store, 10% online). It will be available for purchase in the Frick's Museum Shop, online at shop.frick.org, or by contacting shop@frick.org or 212.547.6849.

ABOUT THE FRICK COLLECTION

Housed in one of New York City's last great Gilded Age homes, The Frick Collection provides intimate encounters with one of the world's foremost collections of fine and decorative arts. Open since 1935, the institution originated with Henry Clay Frick, who bequeathed his Fifth Avenue residence and collection of European paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts for the enjoyment of the public. The museum's holdings, which encompass masterworks from the Renaissance through the late nineteenth century, have grown over the decades, more than doubling in number since the opening of the museum. The Frick Art Research Library, founded more than one hundred years ago by Henry Clay Frick's daughter Helen Clay Frick, is today a leading art history research center that serves students, scholars, and the public.

Last spring, the Frick completed a major renovation and enhancement project and reopened on April 17, 2025, with great fanfare. Designed by Selldorf Architects, with executive architect Beyer Blinder Belle, the project was developed to honor the historic legacy and character of the Frick while addressing critical infrastructural and operational needs.

For more information, please visit frick.org.

IMAGES

6^e cahier de *Modes Français pour les Coeffures, depuis 1776*. F.31, designer and engraver unknown, ca. 1778; Designed by Claude-Louis Desrais, engraved by Nicholas Dupin, 16^e *Cahier des Costumes Français*. 10^e *Suite d'Habillemens à la mode*. Q.94, ca. 1778; Designed by Pierre-Thomas Le Clerc, engraved by Nicholas Dupin, 27^e *Cahier de Costumes Français*. 2^e *Suite d'Habillemens à la mode, en 1779*. CC.157, ca. 1779; Designed by Pierre-Thomas Le Clerc, engraved by Charles Emmanuel (Jean Baptiste) Patas, 14^e *Cahier des Costumes Français*. 8^e *Suite d'Habillemens à la mode*. O.80, ca. 1778; Designed by Pierre-Thomas Le Clerc, engraved by Pierre Adrien Le Beau, 7^e *Cahier des Costumes Français*. 1^{re} *Suite d'Habillemens de Femmes à la mode*. G.37, ca. 1778. All from *Galerie des modes et costumes français*, hand-colored engravings on laid paper, each approx. 11 1/2 × 17 in. (29.2 × 43.2 cm), Frick Art Research Library, gift of Melinda Martin Sullivan, 2016

INTERACT

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BASIC INFORMATION

Website: frick.org

Email: info@frick.org

Bloomberg Connects mobile guide:
frick.org/connects

Programs: frick.org/programs

Explore: frick.org/explore

Address: 1 East 70th Street,
New York, NY 10021

Museum hours: Wednesday through Monday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Closed Tuesday and holidays. Pay-what-you-wish admission is offered Wednesday, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

See website for holiday schedule.

Admission: Advance timed tickets are required (except for members). \$30 adults, \$22 seniors (65+) and visitors with disabilities, \$17 students with ID. Admission is always free for members and youth ages 10–18.

Please note: Only children ages 10 and older are admitted to the museum.

Tickets: frick.org/tickets

For questions: admissions@frick.org

Group reservations: frick.org/groups

Shop: Open during museum hours and online daily at shop.frick.org.

Dining: Ticket holders and members can make same-day reservations at our full-service café, Westmoreland. Beverages and pastries are also available at our coffee bar. Learn more at frick.org/cafe.

Subway: #6 local to 68th Street station; #Q to 72nd Street station

Bus: M1, M2, M3, and M4 southbound on Fifth Avenue to 72nd Street and northbound on Madison Avenue to 70th Street

Frick Art Research Library: Open Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. No appointment necessary; registration required. For more information, visit frick.org/library.

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For further press information, visit frick.org/press or contact us at communications@frick.org.