

The temporary home of The Frick Collection

The Frick Collection Co-Publishes *Regarding Ingres: Fourteen Short Stories*

Inspired by Ingres's *Comtesse d'Haussonville*



New York (February 6, 2023)—One of the most celebrated paintings in The Frick Collection, Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres's *Comtesse d'Haussonville*, has inspired a new book of short stories to be published next month by Rizzoli Electa in association with the Frick. The stories in *Regarding Ingres: Fourteen Short Stories* were written by talented graduate students in New York University's Creative Writing Program. Best-selling author and NYU professor Darin Strauss served as their faculty advisor and contributed the book's introduction.

Comments Xavier F. Salomon, Deputy Director and Peter Jay Sharp Chief Curator of the Frick, "We are so proud to welcome fresh perspectives on works in our collection, and this collaboration with emerging fiction writers from NYU has been a deeply rewarding project. This collection of stories is sure to bring renewed attention to a particularly beloved work in our holdings." Adds Strauss, "It's thrilling to see the great work of an Old Master reinterpreted in adventurous new work by young writers."

Both Ingres's painting and the stories take their inspiration from Louise, Princesse de Broglie, Comtesse d'Haussonville, who came of age in an aristocratic and highly educated family and had the unique distinction of being the daughter, sister, spouse, and mother of four members of the French Academy. She was herself an author, penning multiple biographies—including ones of Lord Byron and the Irish revolutionary Robert Emmet—and was married to Joseph de Cléron, a diplomat, historian, and writer. Her maternal grandmother, Madame de Staël, was a celebrated Romantic novelist and political theorist.

In the portrait, Ingres presents the countess as if she has just returned home from a night at the opera. He strategically arranges her luxurious effects—opera glasses, shawl, visiting cards, gold-and-turquoise jewelry—to capture one moment from a cultured, privileged life. These objects and other details serve as the starting point for the fourteen stories, which range from a gothic tale to a mythologized afterlife to a present-day ghost story. They transport the countess—and the reader—to disparate places: Poland, Brazil, the Amalfi Coast, New York City, and a heaven populated solely by Black people.

Over the years, the Frick has inspired a number of literary responses, from the allusion to Rembrandt's *Polish Rider* in Frank O'Hara's poem "Having a Coke with You" to references to Vermeer's *Girl Interrupted at Her Music* in Susanna Kaysen's memoir *Girl, Interrupted* to Fiona Davis's historical novel *The Magnolia Palace*. Looking to explore

a single work of art through a new collection of fiction, Michaelyn Mitchell, the Frick's Editor in Chief, conceived *Regarding Ingres* as something of a follow-up to *The Sleeve Should Be Illegal & Other Reflections on Art at the Frick* (2021), an anthology of personal musings by cultural luminaries. In October 2021, students from Strauss's Craft of Fiction class visited Frick Madison for an after-hours encounter with Ingres's portrait and an illuminating curatorial presentation; they submitted their stories at semester's end, three months later.

The stories are written by Mathis Clément, Najee Fareed, Nina Ferraz, Omer Friedlander, Amir Hall, Anushka Joshi, Christopher Linnix, Madeline McFarland, Jonathan Perry, Isabelle Philippe, Eric Rubeo, Erin Townsend, Devon Walker-Figueroa, and Alanna Weissman.

An event celebrating the book's publication will be held at NYU's Washington Square campus on Friday, March 31, at 5:00 p.m., hosted by Strauss and featuring several of the contributing writers. [Admission is free, but RSVP is required.](#)

ABOUT THE FRICK COLLECTION AND FRICK MADISON

The historic buildings of The Frick Collection are currently closed for renovation and enhancement, their first comprehensive upgrade since the 1930s. For the duration of the renovation project, the collections of the museum and library remain accessible to the public at Frick Madison, the Marcel Breuer–designed building at 945 Madison Avenue that was once the home of the Whitney Museum of American Art, and most recently, The Met Breuer. The project ensures that the public continues to enjoy the Frick's masterpieces, while also giving the museum a unique opportunity to reimagine its presentation of paintings, sculptures, and decorative arts within a completely different context. For the first time, audiences are able to enjoy a substantial gathering of highlights from the Frick's permanent collection outside the domestic setting of the Gilded Age mansion.

Honoring the institution's architectural legacy and unique character, the project plan designed by Selldorf Architects will provide unprecedented access to the original 1914 residence of Henry Clay Frick, while preserving the intimate visitor experience and beloved galleries for which the Frick is known. Conceived to address pressing institutional and programmatic needs, the plan will create new spaces for permanent collection display and special exhibitions, conservation, education, and public programs, while improving visitor amenities and overall accessibility.

Image: *Regarding Ingres* book cover, featuring a detail of the painting *Comtesse d'Haussonville* by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, 1845, oil on canvas, The Frick Collection.

INTERACT

   @FrickCollection

#FrickMadison

BASIC INFORMATION

Website: frick.org

Building project: frickfuture.org

Bloomberg Connects app: frick.org/app

Frick Madison visitor address: 945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street, New York, NY 10021

Museum hours: Thursday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; closed Monday through Wednesday. See website for holiday schedule.

Admission: Timed tickets are strongly recommended and may be purchased online. \$22 general public; \$17 seniors and visitors with disabilities; \$12 students. Admission is always free for members. Pay-what-you-wish admission is offered Thursdays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Please note: Children under ten are not admitted to the museum.

COVID-19/health and safety policies: frick.org/visit/guidelines

Ticket purchase link: frick.org/tickets. For questions: admissions@frick.org

Group reservations: For questions: groupreservations@frick.org

Public programs: A calendar of in-person and virtual events is available on our website.

Shop: Open during museum hours as well as online daily.

Refreshments: A light menu, offered by The SisterYard, is available on the lower level during museum hours.

Subway: #6 local to 77th Street station; #Q to 72nd Street station. **Bus:** M1, M2, M3, and M4 southbound on Fifth Avenue to 75th Street and northbound on Madison Avenue to 74th Street.

Museum mailing address: 1 East 70th Street, near Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10021

Photography: Allowed only in the Frick Madison Lobby.

Reading room: Access is offered by appointment Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For further information, visit frick.org/tickets.

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For further press information, please contact us at communications@frick.org.