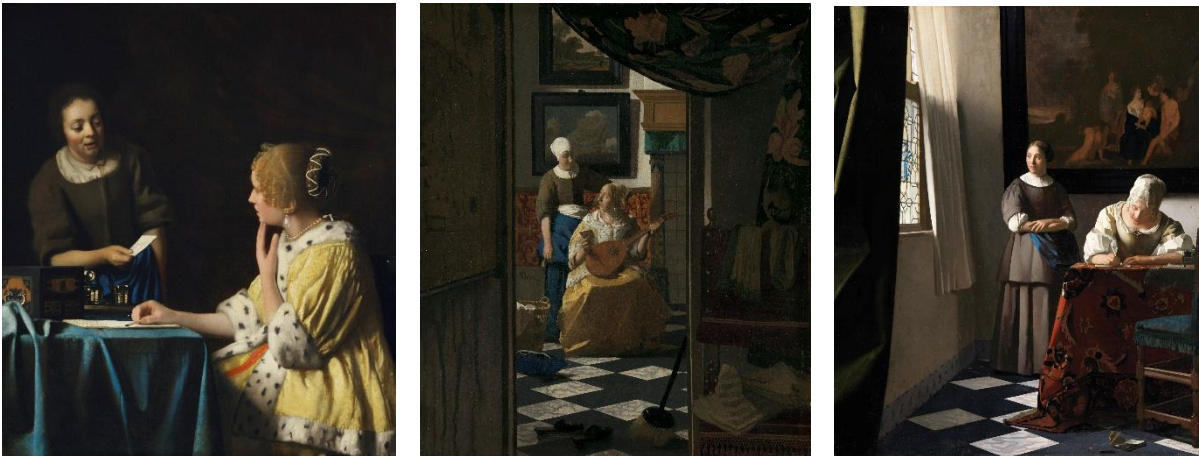


Vermeer's Love Letters

Museum to Debut New Special Exhibition Galleries with Major Vermeer Loans from Rijksmuseum and National Gallery of Ireland

June 18 through September 8, 2025



New York (March 4, 2025) — In the first exhibition to be held in The Frick Collection’s new special exhibition galleries, three works by Johannes Vermeer will be presented from June 18 through September 8, 2025. The unprecedented installation *Vermeer’s Love Letters* centers on the Frick’s iconic *Mistress and Maid*, uniting it with two special loans: *The Love Letter* from the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, and *Woman Writing a Letter, with Her Maid* from the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin. Presented together in a single gallery for the first time, this trio of works will offer visitors the opportunity to consider Vermeer’s exploration of themes of letter writing and epistolary exchange in the context of the seventeenth-century domestic settings for which the artist is renowned.

States Xavier F. Salomon, the Frick’s Deputy Director and Peter Jay Sharp Chief Curator, “On the heels of the museum’s public reopening on April 17, it is fitting that we are debuting our new special exhibition galleries with a closer look at the work of Vermeer, one of the most popular artists in our collection. His *Mistress and Maid* is the final masterpiece that Henry Clay Frick acquired before his death, making this inaugural show a particularly appropriate tribute to his legacy as a collector.”

In taking up the motif of the exchange of letters, Vermeer and his contemporaries explored and imagined the inner lives and emotions of their painted subjects, often creating enigmatic narrative scenes. Of about three dozen surviving works by Vermeer, six are variations on this theme. The three works united in the exhibition share a particular focus on women in the domestic sphere: ladies and their maidservants. The complex relationships,

tensions, and trust between these two social classes—domestic servants and their employers—is a topic linked to and exemplified by the writing, reading, and delivery of letters. The exhibition’s curator, Dr. Robert Fucci, distinguished scholar on seventeenth-century Dutch art from the University of Amsterdam, examines these ideas in the literary and artistic contexts of Vermeer’s time. The display of the three works brought together in *Vermeer’s Love Letters* captures the artist’s ability to portray themes of everyday life with nuance, variety, and drama.

Visitors to the Frick will also have the opportunity to enjoy the museum’s other masterpieces by Vermeer, *Officer and Laughing Girl* and *Girl Interrupted at Her Music*, displayed nearby in the museum’s recently restored permanent collection galleries. Five additional works by the artist can be seen a few blocks north at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, making this an extraordinary occasion for Vermeer enthusiasts in New York City.

ACCOMPANYING PUBLICATION

The exhibition catalogue by Fucci provides a close examination of the three paintings in this show and of the motif of letter writing in Vermeer’s oeuvre and the broader cultural context of the time. Through meticulous analysis, Fucci presents the thematic undercurrents that connect these masterpieces, shedding light on Vermeer’s legacy and his ability to capture moments of intimacy with unparalleled depth.

Vermeer’s Love Letters will be published on April 29, 2025, by The Frick Collection in association with Rizzoli Electa. The 112-page hardcover volume includes 60 color illustrations (\$37.50, member price \$30). It will be available for purchase in the Museum Shop and online at shop.frick.org.

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

This exhibition is generously funded by the Jasmine Charity Trust in memory of Regina Jaglom Wachter.

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 (1849–1919), 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.

The Frick is nearing completion of a major renovation and enhancement project and will reopen to the public on April 17, 2025. 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

Johannes Vermeer (1632–1675), *Mistress and Maid*, ca. 1664–67, oil on canvas, 35 1/2 x 31 in., The Frick Collection, New York, photo: Joseph Coscia Jr.; Vermeer, *The Love Letter*, ca. 1669–70, oil on canvas, 17 5/16 x 15 3/16 in., Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, purchased with the support of the Vereniging Rembrandt; Vermeer, *Lady Writing a Letter, with Her Maid*, ca. 1670–72, oil on canvas, 28 x 23 13/16 in., National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin, presented by Sir Alfred and Lady Beit, 1987 (Beit Collection), image © National Gallery of Ireland

INTERACT

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BASIC INFORMATION

Website: frick.org

Email: info@frick.org

Bloomberg Connects app:
frick.org/app

Programs: frick.org/programs

Explore: frick.org/explore

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

Museum hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Closed Monday, Tuesday, and holidays. Pay-what-you-wish admission offered Wednesday, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Starting June 23: Open six days a week, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday–Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Closed Tuesday and holidays.

See website for holiday schedule.

Admission: Advance timed tickets are required. \$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: Children under ten are not admitted to the museum.

Tickets: frick.org/tickets

Tickets go on sale March 3, 2025.

For questions: admissions@frick.org

Group reservations:
groupreservations@frick.org

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

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, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. No appointment necessary; registration required. For further information, visit frick.org/library.

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