



ARCHIVED PRESS RELEASE

from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

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***MICHELANGELO TO PICASSO:
MASTER DRAWINGS FROM THE
COLLECTION OF THE ALBERTINA, VIENNA***

April 18 to June 18, 2000

***Media Preview: Monday, April 17, 2000, 10:00am to 1:00pm
The Frick Collection, 1 East 70th Street, New York, NY 10021; RSVP: (212) 547-6866.***

This spring, visitors to The Frick Collection will have the opportunity to view works representing five hundred years of the highest achievement in the draftsman's art by such masters as Dürer, Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael, Rubens, Rembrandt, van Gogh, Klimt, Picasso, Chagall, Schiele, and Pollock. The Frick Collection is the only American venue for the special exhibition, ***Michelangelo to Picasso: Master Drawings from the Collection of the Albertina, Vienna***, which opens on April 18 and remains on view through June 18, 2000. The Graphische Sammlung Albertina (Graphic Art Collection Albertina) is one of Europe's greatest repositories of works on paper. This exhibition features forty-five master drawings and watercolors, many of which have never left Austria or are only very rarely on view. The works selected are not only of the highest quality, but are representative of several different eras of collecting at the institution -- from the Age of Enlightenment to the present day.

These drawings and watercolors were selected by Dr. Konrad Oberhuber, former Director of the Albertina, Vienna, and Dr. Barbara Dossi, Head of Collections, in collaboration with Dr. Katharine Lochnan, Senior Curator of Prints and Drawings, the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, where the exhibition made its debut this winter. At its first showing, ***Michelangelo to Picasso*** was highly acclaimed in the Canadian press and enthusiastically attended. Presentation of the exhibition in New York has been made possible, in part, through the generosity of the Fellows of The Frick Collection.

THE HISTORY OF COLLECTING AT THE ALBERTINA

The Graphische Sammlung Albertina, Vienna, developed from the collection assembled over a fifty-year period by Albert, Duke of Saxe-Teschen (1738-1822), the eleventh of the fourteen children of Frederick Augustus II, Prince Elector of Saxony. The Duke's refined interest in prints and drawings and ample financial means allowed him to acquire entire collections at one time, including his most impressive purchase of the collection of drawings and watercolors by Dürer, amassed by Emperor Rudolph II. Following the Duke's death in 1822, the collection (consisting of 14,000 drawings and 230,000 prints) was bequeathed to his heir and nephew, Archduke Charles of Austria. This collection was combined in 1920 with that of the prints and drawings of the Imperial Court Library to form the Albertina. The institution continued to acquire important works throughout the twentieth century, and today the holdings comprise 65,000 drawings and approximately one million prints from all major regions of artistic production, from late Gothic to contemporary art.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition offers a window through which to glimpse the artistic process at its most intimate, and to gain an appreciation of the full range of the draftsman's art. While some of the works in the exhibition are loosely-sketched studies, others are highly detailed and can be seen as finished works of art. Among the highlights is Dürer's, *Head of an Old Man* of 1521, a meticulously detailed portrait of a ninety-three-year-old subject, which served also as a study for his subsequent painting of *St. Jerome*. Other drawings which served as studies for work in another medium are Leonardo's *Apostle* (probably Peter), one of the few surviving studies for the artist's well known *The Last Supper* fresco in Milan, and Michelangelo's *Seated Male Nude (Ignudo) and Studies for Two Arms*, a preparatory drawing for one of the male nudes contained in the ceiling frescoes of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. This last work is a particularly rare piece, as Michelangelo burned so many of his drawings. From these Renaissance forebears the exhibition continues through the centuries with examples that demonstrate a range of drawing techniques and styles such as Rembrandt's evocative work *Farm Houses Under a Stormy Sky*, to Pablo Picasso's extraordinary large Cubist *Head of a Woman*, to Jackson Pollock's improvisational untitled drawing in black ink.

NEW PUBLICATION AVAILABLE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EXHIBITION

In a book accompanying the exhibition, *Albertina: The History of the Collections and Its Masterpieces*, Dr. Barbara Dossi, Head of Collections at the Albertina, presents new research on the fascinating development of the institution. The softcover book represents a substantial enlargement of knowledge about the Albertina, particularly with regard to the activities of the owners and directors over a period of nearly two-hundred and fifty years. Published by Prestel Verlag, the book includes a bounty of historic images and also highlights eighty works from the collection. An important scholarly contribution, this book is available in the Museum Shop of The Frick Collection for \$45.00, or by calling (212) 288-0700.

PUBLIC PROGRAM: FREE LECTURE

"Italian Drawings in the Graphische Sammlung Albertina"

Wednesday, May 24, 5:30pm

Dr. Carmen C. Bambach, Associate Curator in the Department of Prints and Drawings at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, is an expert on Italian drawings. In her lecture, she will examine the extraordinary holdings of the Albertina in this area, among them, notable examples included in the exhibition. The lecture is free to those who arrive after 5:00pm.

About The Frick Collection

The Frick Collection is an anthology of some of the most distinguished works of Western art from the early Renaissance through the late nineteenth century, including masterpieces by Bellini, El Greco, Rembrandt, Titian, Turner, Vermeer, Whistler, and many others housed in one of the great mansions remaining from the Gilded Age. These paintings are complemented by one of the world's finest collections of Renaissance bronzes and by great French sculpture of the eighteenth century. These treasures are surrounded by outstanding furniture and decorative art works from the ateliers of Riesener, Lacroix, Boulle, Carlin, Gouthière, and Sèvres. Each year more than 275,000 visitors from New York, across America, and around the world come to the Collection at 1 East 70th Street, once the residence of Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919). Designed by Thomas Hastings of Carrère and Hastings and constructed in 1913-1914, the building was changed after Mrs. Frick's death in 1931, with alterations and additions made by the architect John Russell Pope. In 1935 the Collection opened to the public. A new Reception Hall, built in 1977, was designed by John Barrington Bayley, Harry van Dyke, and G. Frederick Poehler, in addition to two additional temporary exhibition galleries. The Frick Collection also operates the Frick Art Reference Library at 10 East 71st Street, both a research library and a photoarchive. The Library is one of the world's great repositories for the documentation and study of Western art and has served the international art world for more than seventy-five years.

BASIC INFORMATION

General Information Phone: (212) 288-0700

Website: www.frick.org

E-mail: info@frick.org

Where: 1 East 70th Street, near Fifth Avenue.

Hours: 10am to 6pm Tuesdays through Saturdays, and from 1pm to 6pm Sundays. Closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, December 24, and December 25. Limited hours (1 to 6pm) on Lincoln's Birthday, Election Day, and Veterans Day.

Admission: \$7, general public; \$5, students & senior citizens. See updated "Tour Information."

PLEASE NOTE TO YOUR READERS: Children under ten are not admitted to the Collection, and those under sixteen must be accompanied by an adult.

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: now included in the price of admission is an Acoustiguide INFORM® Audio Tour of the permanent collection, provided by Acoustiguide. The tour is offered in five languages: English, French, German, Japanese, and Spanish. In the spring of 2000 (date to be announced), an Italian tour will be offered.

Museum Shop: the shop closes at 5:45pm, and is open otherwise the same days and hours as the Museum.

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, Communications Officer

Direct Phone: (212) 547-6866

General Phone: (212) 288-0700

Fax: (212) 628-4417

E-mail: Rosenau@Frick.org