



# ARCHIVED PRESS RELEASE

from

# THE FRICK COLLECTION

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## ***DENISE ALLEN JOINS STAFF AS ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF THE FRICK COLLECTION***

### ***MAJOR APPOINTMENT BRINGS FRESH ATTENTION TO COLLECTION'S RENAISSANCE PAINTINGS, BRONZES, AND OTHER HOLDINGS***

The Frick Collection has appointed as Associate Curator **Denise Allen**, who took up the post this January. Allen comes from the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, where she served as Associate Curator in the Paintings Department. Her field of expertise is Renaissance painting and sculpture, for which the Frick has not had a dedicated curator since the retirement of Bernice Davidson in 1997. Allen brings to the position a deep knowledge of the fine arts of this period, which will enhance the institution's ability to present and interpret its early works in a variety of media—diverse holdings that include paintings by Duccio, Van Eyck, Bellini, Holbein, Bruegel, Titian, and Veronese as well as a remarkable collection of bronzes and marble busts, ornately carved Italian chests, and an impressive gathering of Limoges enamels. Among Allen's projects is the coordination for the Frick of a loan exhibition, ***Willem van Tetrode (c. 1525-1580): Bronze Sculptures of the Renaissance***, organized by the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. On view this summer in New York from June 24 through September 7, 2003, the exhibition is the first retrospective on this Northern Netherlandish sculptor. She will also co-organize, with the National Gallery, London, a focus-presentation of *The Flagellation of Christ*, a panel in the Frick's collection that has recently been reattributed to the profoundly influential thirteenth-century Italian artist Cimabue.

Chief Curator Colin B. Bailey comments, “We are delighted to have lured Denise Allen back to the East Coast. I have long been impressed by her distinction as a connoisseur and scholar, and my colleagues and I are excited to have a specialist of earlier painting and sculpture on the staff.”

Denise Allen adds, “I am honored to have the opportunity to become a part of this small, dynamic institution with a brilliant collection that includes an exciting and important component of Renaissance works. Together, we are actively taking a fresh look at how we present these treasures to the public.”

Allen curated several exhibitions while at the Getty, among them *Ercole de’ Roberti* (1999), a monographic show that presented almost half of the surviving work of this artist. She also co-curated *Rome on the Grand Tour* (2002), a didactic installation placing Getty works and those from local collections in historical context, the first such thematic show undertaken by that institution. In 2002, Allen co-curated *Greuze the Painter*, which was on view last fall at the Getty. The show drew together Greuze’s paintings in Los Angeles with related works from international collections to complement the concurrent showing of the Frick-organized touring exhibition *Greuze the Draftsman*. Allen has contributed to a range of Getty collection-related publications, among them (with Yvonne Szafran) an essay for the exhibition catalogue of *The Master of Saint Bartholomew* (2001, Walraf-Richartz Museum, Cologne); (with Luke Syson) the catalogue essay for the Getty Museum exhibition on *Ercole de’ Roberti* (1999); entries in the *Getty Museum Handbook* and *Masterpieces of Painting* (1997); and (with P. Fusco and M. Cambareri) entries in the *Catalogue of European Sculpture* (2002). Allen’s work has also appeared in magazines such as *Apollo* and *Burlington*. She has frequently lectured and published on topics ranging from Benvenuto Cellini’s iconic saltcellar, a particular area of focus for Allen, to landscapes by Nicolas Poussin and the portraiture of Jean-Étienne Liotard. Prior to working at the Getty, Allen taught art history at Wellesley College and was a Teaching Fellow at Harvard University. She brings to The Frick Collection a keen sense of how to engage different audiences in looking at art.

## **ABOUT THE FRICK COLLECTION**

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. Of special note are paintings by Bellini, Constable, Fragonard, El Greco, Holbein, Ingres, Rembrandt, Renoir, Titian, Turner, Velázquez, Vermeer, Veronese, Whistler, and other masters. Mr. Frick's superb examples of French eighteenth-century furniture, Italian Renaissance bronzes, 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.

Renowned for its small, focused exhibitions and for its highly regarded concert series and lectures, The Frick Collection also operates the Frick Art Reference Library, founded by Henry Clay Frick's daughter, Miss Helen Clay Frick, located in an adjoining building at 10 East 71st Street. Both a research library and a photo archive, the Frick Art Reference Library is one of the world's great repositories of documents for the study of Western art. It has served the international art world for more than seventy-five years.

## **BASIC INFORMATION**

**General Information Phone:** (212) 288-0700

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

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

**Where:** 1 East 70<sup>th</sup> Street, near Fifth Avenue.

**NEW HOURS:** 10am to 6pm on Tuesdays through Thursdays and on Saturdays; 10am to 9pm on Fridays; and 1pm to 6pm on 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:** general public, \$12 ; senior citizens, \$8; students, \$5

**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 68<sup>th</sup> Street station; **Bus:** M1, M2, M3, and M4 southbound on Fifth Avenue to 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and northbound on Madison Avenue to 70<sup>th</sup> Street

**Tour Information:** included in the price of admission is an Acoustiguide INFORM® 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:** 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, Manager of Media Relations & Marketing, or Stephanie Ruggiero, Media Relations & Marketing Coordinator

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