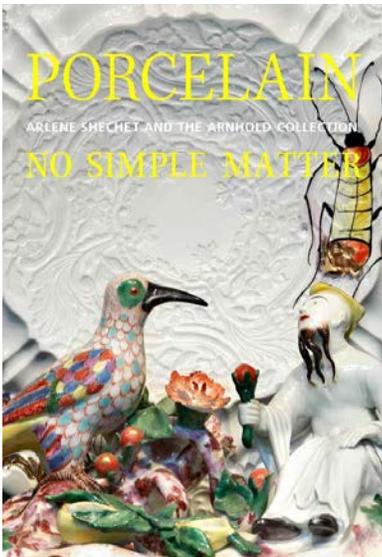


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THE FRICK COLLECTION

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NOW AVAILABLE
BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED BOOKLET TO
ACCOMPANY ACCLAIMED SPECIAL EXHIBITION

PORCELAIN, NO SIMPLE MATTER:
ARLENE SHECHET AND THE ARNHOLD COLLECTION



The Frick is pleased to announce the publication of *Porcelain, No Simple Matter: Arlene Shechet and the Arnhold Collection*, which accompanies the year-long special exhibition of the same name, exploring the complex history of making, collecting, and displaying porcelain. This beautifully illustrated booklet includes installation photographs, a complete exhibition checklist, and a conversation between exhibition organizer Charlotte Vignon, the Frick's Curator of Decorative Arts; Henry Arnhold, the renowned collector of early eighteenth-century Meissen porcelain; and New York-based artist Arlene Shechet, who designed the exhibition. The show integrates sixteen porcelain sculptures created by Shechet at the Meissen manufactory in Dresden during a two-year residency in 2012–13 into a selection of about one hundred objects from Henry Arnhold's private collection, many of which are part of a promised gift made to the Frick in 2011. Shechet's

inventive installation richly extends the context of both the eighteenth-century porcelain pieces and her work.

Porcelain, No Simple Matter: Arlene Shechet and the Arnhold Collection (34 pages, 35 illustrations with accordion-fold panels, saddle stitched, 5 ½ x 8 inches; softcover \$10.95, member price \$9.86) is available at the Museum Shop of the Frick, on the institution's Web site shopfrick.org, and by phone 212.547.6848.

ABOUT THE INSTALLATION AND EXHIBITION

Shechet's "artist's eye" perspective eschews the typical chronological or thematic order of most installations in favor of a personal approach that opens an intriguing visual and technical dialogue between the contemporary and the historical. Her installation is inspired by the domestic setting of the Frick's galleries, which are characterized by a combination of objects, textures, colors, and materials. Shechet turned to objects from the Frick's permanent collection when designing the display cases, taking as her inspiration, for example, the eighteenth-century French table by André-Charles Boulle that is currently in the Living Hall. Likewise, the green damask behind the exhibition's display cases evokes the museum's fabric-covered walls.



Installation view; photo: Michael Bodycomb



Installation view of *Bird, Squirrel, and Stag Beetle on a Tree Trunk*, Meissen porcelain, model by Johann Joachim Kändler, 1739, Private collection, on view in *Porcelain, No Simple Matter: Arlene Shechet and the Arnold Collection* in the Frick's Portico Gallery; photo: Michael Bodycomb

The exhibition's location in the Portico Gallery, overlooking the museum's historic Fifth Avenue Garden, reflects Shechet's wish to extend the exhibition into the garden while simultaneously bringing the natural world indoors. For this reason, plexiglass was chosen for the two pedestal tables near the floor-to-ceiling windows in order to offer an unobstructed view of the garden. The theme of the exhibition also derives from its location, with the featured pieces selected for their evocations and depictions of nature, an important source of inspiration for artists working at the Meissen factory, including Shechet.

The integration of Shechet's work with porcelain from Mr. Arnhold's collection creates a kind of *tableau vivant* in which the objects—figures, cups, teapots, and vases—seem to come to life, a direct reference to the eighteenth-century European concept of animating inanimate objects. The display also references late seventeenth- and eighteenth-century European gardens that invited contemplation of art and nature, as well as contemporaneous "porcelain rooms" in which walls were covered with hundreds of pieces of porcelain, often arranged by color. As in these historical settings, surprise and delight are at the core of the installation; look for porcelain birds mounted overhead in the Portico's rotunda and large Meissen animals outside, their stark white a dramatic contrast to the greenery of the garden.



Installation view; photo: Michael Bodycomb

The exhibition and the booklet's title, "Porcelain, No Simple Matter," was chosen by Shechet and is meant as an entreaty to the viewer to look more closely and prepare to be surprised. For Shechet, as for Arnhold, these beautiful

objects are not simply dishes or figurines or painted knickknacks—they are carefully considered works of art. By exploring the complex history of the making, collecting, and display of porcelain, the exhibition offers a unique opportunity to reevaluate and reexamine a medium, a *matter*, often taken for granted.

INTERACT

Social:    /FrickCollection

#NoSimpleMatter

#FrickCollection

Exhibit:  /ArleneShechet

BASIC INFORMATION

General Information Phone: 212.288.0700

Web site: www.frick.org

Building project: www.frickfuture.org

E-mail: info@frick.org

App: frick.org/app

Museum entrance: 1 East 70th Street, near Fifth Avenue

Library entrance: 10 East 71st Street

Museum Hours: Open six days a week: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays through Saturdays; 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. Closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Limited hours (11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) on Lincoln's Birthday, Election Day, and Veterans Day

Library Hours: frick.org/visit/library/hours

Museum Admission: \$22; senior citizens \$17; students \$12; "pay what you wish" on Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

First Fridays: Museum admission and gallery programs are free from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the first Friday evening of the month (except January and September)

Library: open to the public and free of charge

PLEASE NOTE TO YOUR READERS: Children under ten are not admitted to the Collection

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

Tour Information: Included in the price of museum admission is an Acoustiguide Audio Tour of the permanent collection. The tour is offered in six languages: English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish.

Shop: The shop is open the same days as the museum, closing fifteen minutes before the institution.

Group Museum 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.

283, July 7, 2016 (Updated August 16, 2016)

For further press information, please contact Alexis Light, Senior Manager of Media Relations & Marketing; Phone: 212.547.6844; E-mail: light@frick.org