



# ARCHIVED PRESS RELEASE

*from*

## THE FRICK COLLECTION

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1 EAST 70TH STREET • NEW YORK • NEW YORK 10021 • TELEPHONE (212) 288-0700 • FAX (212) 628-4417

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### APPOINTMENT OF **RIKA BURNHAM** AS HEAD OF EDUCATION

The Frick Collection is pleased to announce that **Rika Burnham** joins the staff as Head of Education as of March 12, 2008. Comments Director Anne L. Poulet, “Rika has played a notable leadership role in the field of museum education, and we are delighted to welcome her to the Frick. Her role here will be a vital one, ensuring through many means—among them school partnerships, cross-organizational collaborations, public programs, and information offered on-site—that the museum effectively reaches and addresses various audiences.” Adds Colin B. Bailey, Associate Director and Peter Jay Sharp Chief Curator, “With Rika Burnham’s appointment, the Education Department at The Frick Collection comes of age. Given her impressive background and credentials, we have high expectations that she will create a variety of thoughtful, carefully constructed programs for diverse audiences, and that each of the department’s offerings will reflect an unwavering commitment to the close and careful study of the works of art that are displayed at 1 East 70<sup>th</sup> Street.”



Rika Burnham, Head of Education  
The Frick Collection; photo: Michael Bodycomb

Rika Burnham is currently Associate Museum Educator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, where she instructs students, docents, teachers, and adults. She was recognized by the National Art Education Association for sustained achievement in museum teaching in 2001, was appointed a Getty Museum Scholar in 2002, and received the James D. Burke Prize for achievement in the arts in 2003. In 2005 she was given the Charles Robertson Memorial Award from the School Art League of NYC and most recently (2006) was an Attingham Trust Scholar 2006 in the Royal Collection Studies Program, London. In addition to her work at the Metropolitan, she is a guest lecturer at art museums across the country, a lecturer at Teachers College Columbia University, the visiting museum educator for the Summer Teacher Institute of Contemporary Art, and the project director of the Teaching Institute for Museum Educators at

the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. With Elliott Kai-Kee, Rika Burnham is co-author of *The Art of Teaching in the Museum* and *Museum Education and the Project of Interpretation in the Twenty-First Century*, both published by The Journal of Aesthetic Education.

Adds Rika Burnham, “I cannot imagine a more marvelous place for education to grow and prosper than at The Frick Collection, where I look forward to supporting the scholarly traditions of this institution, broadening the public’s dialogue with the permanent collection and special exhibitions, and inspiring deep imaginative engagement for all visitors.

“I believe that a museum education program must always be deeply rooted in its institution’s own collection, and always seek to serve the diverse but convergent interests of the general public, students, visiting scholars, and curators. My main objective in accepting the appointment at the Frick is to further develop an education department in which scholarship will always play a central role, and whose programs encourage richly dialogical experiences with the collection.

“Experiences people have with works of art in museums are essential to a life lived fully. Often contemplative, ideally transformative, such experiences may of course always be enjoyed by the solitary, self-guided visitor, and the cherished tranquility of the Frick’s intimate galleries is exceptionally conducive to moments of real epiphany. My teaching practice for many years, however, has been dedicated to the conviction that groups of museum visitors, guided by appropriately trained museum educators to focus their observant eyes on great artworks, will have experiences of unique depth and intensity. Exemplary gallery teaching—which provides unrivaled opportunities for people to see and think together about works of art, yielding shared understandings often inaccessible to the individual viewer—is at the heart of museum education.

“Under my leadership and in collaboration with the Frick’s curators, the education department at the Frick will expand in the coming year, as we develop an array of new programs and cultivate new audiences, working always to illuminate the Collection.

## **ABOUT THE FRICK’S EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Internationally recognized for its quality and innovative character, the Frick’s Education Program introduces a variety of audiences to the pleasures of looking at art, while at the same time sharpening their observational and analytical skills. These efforts have made it the subject of a major story on the *CBS Evening News*, as well substantive articles in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Toronto Globe & Mail*, the *New York Post*, *The Times* of London, and the *Journal of Medical Education*. Now in its eighth year, the Education Department maintains partnerships with forty New York City public middle and high schools as well as academic and community organizations. Programs focus on outreach to diverse audiences from underserved communities and endeavor to integrate The Frick Collection into classroom studies. Last year approximately 1,900 public school students participated in guided gallery visits, discussion groups, and related classroom activities designed with the support of museum staff.

## **ABOUT THE FRICK COLLECTION & FRICK ART REFERENCE LIBRARY**

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, Corot, Fragonard, Gainsborough, Goya, El Greco, Holbein, Ingres, Manet, Monet, Rembrandt, Renoir, Titian, Turner, Velázquez, Vermeer, Whistler, and other masters. Mr. Frick’s superb examples of French eighteenth-century furniture, Italian Renaissance bronzes, and Limoges enamels are celebrated as well. The galleries that contain these works are beloved by the public for their special ambiance, 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. The Collection is renowned for its small, focused exhibitions and for its highly regarded concert series, lectures, and innovative education programs. The Frick also operates the Frick Art Reference Library, founded by Henry Clay Frick’s daughter, 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

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

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

**Admission:** \$12 for the general public; \$8 for seniors, and \$5 for students

**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 Alexis Light, Media Relations & Marketing Coordinator

Direct Phone: (212) 547-6844

Switchboard: (212) 288-0700

Department e-mail address: [mediarelations@frick.org](mailto:mediarelations@frick.org)

Fax: (212) 628-4417