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from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

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WORKS BY LEONARDO DA VINCI, MICHELANGELO, DÜRER, REMBRANDT, WATTEAU, GOYA, GAINSBOROUGH, TURNER, VAN GOGH, SEURAT, PICASSO & OTHERS INCLUDED IN UNPRECEDENTED LOAN EXHIBITION

MANTEGNA TO MATISSE: MASTER DRAWINGS FROM THE COURTAULD GALLERY

October 2, 2012, through January 27, 2013



Peter Paul Rubens (1577–1640), *Helena Fourment*, c. 1630, black, red, and white chalk and pen and ink, 24 x 21 ½ inches; © The Samuel Courtauld Trust, The Courtauld Gallery, London

In keeping with its tradition of presenting masterworks from collections outside of New York, this fall The Frick Collection presents fifty-eight drawings from The Courtauld Gallery, London. This exhibition marks the first time that so many of the principal drawings in The Courtauld's renowned collection—one of Britain's most important—have been made available for loan. The prized sheets—many of which have never been shown in New York—represent a survey of the extraordinary draftsmanship of Italian, Dutch, Flemish, German, Spanish, British, and French artists active between the late Middle Ages and

the early twentieth century. The exhibition features works executed in a range of techniques and styles and for a variety of purposes, including preliminary sketches, practice studies, *aide-mémoires*, designs for other artworks, and finished pictures meant to be appreciated as independent works of art. Among the artists whose drawings will be shown are Andrea Mantegna, Leonardo da Vinci, Albrecht Dürer, Michelangelo Buonarroti, Peter Paul Rubens, Jusepe de Ribera, Rembrandt van Rijn, Jean-Antoine Watteau, Charles-Joseph Natoire,



Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475–1564), *The Dream (Il Sogno)*, c. 1533, graphite, 15.6 x 11 inches; © The Samuel Courtauld Trust, The Courtauld Gallery, London

Thomas Gainsborough, Francisco Goya y Lucientes, Joseph Mallord William Turner, Théodore Géricault, Edgar Degas, Paul Cézanne, Vincent van Gogh, Georges Seurat, Henri Matisse, and Pablo Picasso. The exhibition is organized by Colin B. Bailey, the Frick's Deputy Director and Peter Jay Sharp Chief Curator, and Stephanie Buck, Martin Halusa Curator of Drawings at The Courtauld Gallery. The show, which is accompanied by a scholarly catalogue, opened in London at The Courtauld, running from June 14, 2012, through September 9, 2012, before traveling to the Frick. Support for the presentation in New York is generously provided by Jean-Marie and Elizabeth Eveillard, The Christian Humann Foundation, The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, the late Melvin R. Seiden in honor of Neil and Angelica Rudenstine, the Joseph F. McCrindle Foundation, Diane Allen Nixon, and an anonymous gift in honor of Colin B. Bailey and in memory of Melvin R. Seiden. The exhibition is also supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

ABOUT THE COURTAULD INSTITUTE OF ART

Established eighty years ago in 1932 as an academic center devoted to the study of art history, The Courtauld Institute of Art is Great Britain's most prestigious institution of undergraduate and post-graduate education in this discipline. In planning the Institute in 1927, two of its founders, Sir Robert Witt (a lawyer) and Samuel Courtauld (a textile manufacturer) visited Harvard University's recently created Fogg Art Museum. It was the intention of the three founders—the third being the politician and diplomat Viscount Lee of Fareham—that, as part of its mission, The Courtauld train its students by familiarizing them with original works of art, as well as with reproductive prints and photographs of paintings. Named after its most generous benefactor, whose house in Portman Square, designed by Robert Adam in the mid-1770s, was the Institute's first home, The Courtauld Gallery is perhaps most famous for its Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings. (The Institute and Gallery moved to their current premises at Somerset House in 1989.) The Gallery also boasts a collection of some 7,000 drawings—more than a third of which are from the British school—ranging from the early Renaissance to the twentieth century.

USES OF DRAWINGS IN THE RENAISSANCE, BAROQUE & MODERN PERIODS

In many cases, drawings served as studies for single figures that were part of larger compositions. Jacopo Tintoretto's *Male Figure Bending Forward* (c. 1575–85), for example, relates to a commission for the ducal palace in Venice, while Jean-Antoine Watteau's *Satyr Pouring Wine* (1717) is a rare preparatory study for *Autumn*, one of four allegories intended to decorate the dining room of a Parisian *hôtel particulier*. Drawings also functioned as preliminary ideas for narrative paintings, such as in the case of Vittore Carpaccio's double-sided *Virgin Reading to the Infant Christ* (late 1480s or early 1490s) or Paolo Veronese's quickly rendered groups in a pen-and-ink study for the enormous painting of *Christ Carrying the Cross* of 1571. Drawings also may have served as a form of note-taking or as an *aide-mémoire* to record a significant visual experience, such as Peter Paul Rubens's black chalk copy of about 1608, made after the head of the Farnese Hercules, one of the most famous classical statues in Rome, which he encountered during his stays in that city as a young artist. Some of the most finished and meticulously drawn sheets presented in the exhibition were intended for reproduction by engravers: Maerten van Heemskerck's *Colossus of Rhodes* (1570), Johannes Stradanus's *Pearl Diving* (c. 1596), and J.M.W.

Turner's *Colchester, Essex* (c. 1825–26) all were made with replication in mind. In addition to Michelangelo's *Dream*—the most celebrated of all The Courtauld's independent drawings—the exhibition includes a range of self-sufficient compositions in a variety of techniques and degrees of finish. Pieter Bruegel the Elder's astonishing *Storm in the River Schelde with a View of Antwerp* (c. 1559) is an exceptionally turbulent marine view that served as an autonomous sheet with a neo-Stoic subtext. Charles-Joseph Natoire's immaculately drawn and colored *Life Class at the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture*, signed and dated 1746, was kept by Natoire for more than thirty years and served as a pictorial testament to the precepts and values of the state system in which all artists were trained during the ancien régime. Honoré Daumier's watercolor *Le Malade imaginaire* (c. 1850), a comic interpretation of a scene from Molière's last play, has the refinement and finish that rivals his small cabinet pictures and may have been made expressly for the market.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EXHIBITION



Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519), *Studies for Saint Mary Magdalene*, c. 1480–82. Pen and ink, 5.4 x 3.1 inches; © The Samuel Courtauld Trust, The Courtauld Gallery, London

Leonardo da Vinci's pen-and-ink *Studies for Saint Mary Magdalene*, in which the saint is shown carrying an open oil jar wrapped in cloth, are likely compositional ideas, made in Florence early in his career, for paintings that were never realized. Although independent devotional paintings of the Magdalene were unknown at this time, Leonardo was following the standard depiction of the sinner who humbled herself before Christ by bathing his feet with perfumed oils then drying them with her hair. It is likely that he started with the larger motif of the saint looking to her left, eyes upturned. In the smaller sketch below, Leonardo made the radical adjustment of having the Magdalene, initially shown in profile, confront the viewer directly. In this quickly executed drawing, we almost see her head turn. It has been suggested that here Leonardo has portrayed the Magdalene as she gazes directly at the risen Christ, at the exact moment that she recognizes his divinity. In contemporary devotional literature, the sense of sight was understood to represent the Magdalene's most elevated love of Christ; the twelfth-century Cistercian theologian Bernard of Clairvaux wrote in his

Sermon on the Song of Songs that she had seen him “with the mind's eye.”

A drawing by a Florentine artist of the next generation bears the marks not only of its maker, but of the members of his workshop in whose hands it may have circulated; the sheet is heavily stained with splashes of gray-black ink. **Pontormo's** riveting study *Seated Youth* most likely shows one of his apprentices, or *garzoni*, posed on stone steps, resting his right arm and shoulder on a block, and bringing his left hand to his mouth in a gesture of some anxiety. The boy's eyes are wide open, and both his facial expression and body language seem to register fear. This drawing from life was done quickly and confidently, with Pontormo revising only the placement of the boy's right arm.

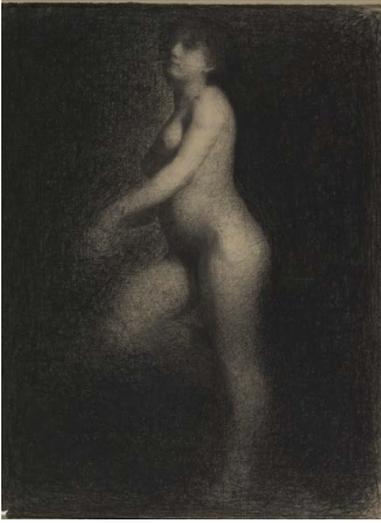


Jacopo Pontormo (1494–1557), *Seated Youth* (recto), c. 1520, chalk (black) on paper, 15.9 x 11 inches; © The Samuel Courtauld Trust, The Courtauld Gallery, London

Although its main contours are incised, the study—like all of those by Pontormo that show his apprentices in their aprons and stockings—cannot be related to a finished mural or drawing. Pontormo may have based the pose of his model on the figure of Heraclitus/Michelangelo in Raphael’s fresco of the *School of Athens*. However, it is also likely that he directed the boy to assume a quite different expression from Raphael’s prototype—both of face and body—transforming the figure study into an exploration of the depiction of fear.

From a decade later, **Michelangelo’s** *Dream or Il Sogno*—the title given to this sheet by Giorgio Vasari in 1568—is an early example of a quite different category of drawing: a meticulously finished composition in black chalk intended as an independent work of art. This complex, enigmatic allegory (on page 1) was in all probability made for a young Roman noble, Tommaso de’ Cavalieri, who studied Michelangelo’s drawings carefully and shared them with sophisticated connoisseurs in his circle. A beautiful, muscular male nude resting against a sphere is shown seated on a box, open to reveal a jumble of theatrical masks. A winged figure, sounding a trumpet that is directed at the youth’s forehead, descends from the sky. Behind these central figures are groups of men and women who engage in violent and bestial activities associated with the seven deadly sins. Two disembodied hands to the right of the angel hold a purse bulging with coins; another hand, less easy to decipher, to the left of the kissing couple beneath the angel, clasps a phallus. The composition seems to address an eternal theme: how to overcome temptation and achieve a virtuous life, with the youth embodying the human mind awakened from evil dreams.

Twenty-nine of the drawings in the current exhibition (including those by Leonardo, Pontormo, Michelangelo, and Rubens) entered The Courtauld Gallery in 1978 as a bequest from Antoine Edward, Count Seilern und Aspang. The Austrian count was an art historian who, at the age of thirty, inherited a fortune from his grandmother and began to collect Old Master paintings and drawings. **Rubens’s** drawing of *Helena Fourment*, the magnificent portrait of his second wife, is one of the masterworks of The Courtauld (see page 1). The sixteen-year-old daughter of a wealthy silk and tapestry merchant, Helena is likely shown soon after her marriage to the fifty-three-year-old Rubens in December 1630. Here she clasps a prayer book in her gloved left hand; her beautiful bare right hand, drawn in red, black, and white chalks, reaches up to catch the mantle or veil that is suspended from the top of her headdress, which would have covered her face and upper body. This sheet is one of three similarly large-scale yet intimate studies of Helena, likely made at the same sitting, each of which may be considered independent works that are not preparatory for a finished painting. (Rubens’s full-length portrait of Fourment, now in the Louvre, is more formal in presentation and shows her with a quite different expression.) The artist’s depiction of his young bride’s beautiful face, with its soft, rosy skin and somewhat vulnerable expression is a technical and psychological tour de force. She is literally and figuratively unveiled for the beholder’s delectation.



Georges Seurat (1859–1891), *Femme Nude*, c. 1879–1881, graphite and crayon, 24.9 x 19 inches; © The Samuel Courtauld Trust, The Courtauld Gallery, London

Although Seilern bequeathed the drawing by Picasso in our exhibition to The Courtauld, the Gallery's renowned holdings of French nineteenth-century paintings and drawings were the gift of its eponymous founder, Samuel Courtauld, who had been advised in his early acquisitions of Impressionist works by Roger Fry. (Fry was briefly an advisor to Henry Clay Frick; it was he who had been responsible for Frick's purchase of Rembrandt's *Polish Rider* in 1910.) **Georges Seurat's** vibrant *Female Nude*—one of the very few studies of naked women that the artist made—emerges from a web of black conté crayon marks, applied with considerable energy onto richly textured Michallet paper with its prominent laid lines. It is quite likely that Seurat made this drawing in his final year at the *École des Beaux-Arts* in Paris, where he studied between 1876 and 1879. As would have been appropriate for this fairly conventional academic

exercise, Seurat places his model in the center of the page and depicts her full length against a dark background. There is a certain awkwardness in Seurat's grasp of his model's anatomy. His repeated delineation of the model's right breast—not altogether successful—and the incomplete hands and feet also suggest that the female nude still presented certain challenges at this early stage in his career. Seurat's model might have been allowed to rest her right knee on a chair to support her weight, a concession not available to those who posed for more formal exercises. The contours of the model's anatomy are defined by shading and smudging the crayon with a stump; there are no independent outlines in this *académie*, and the pulsating energy of Seurat's hand endows the sheet with extraordinary sensuality, softness, and atmosphere.

The grandest of the works on paper bequeathed by Courtauld to the Gallery is **Paul Cézanne's** *Apples, Bottle and Chairback*, a watercolor made in the last years of the artist's life. Here Cézanne literally floods the paper with color and light, achieving a freshness and radiance that equal, if not surpass, his late paintings in oil. This festive still life consists of a blue and white faïence dish, placed at the center of the table and filled with apples. Five apples have tumbled from the dish and now sit apart on the table; a sixth seems to be in the process of joining them. At left, a bottle with its neck truncated glows almost black; in front of it is a tall, but empty, wine glass with an elegant turned stem; Cézanne has painted it blue to reflect the hues of the faïence dish. Anchoring the composition in the background is the ornamental back of a wooden chair of vaguely Baroque design. In its turn, the chair back frames a view of the colored wallpaper in the background. Vibrancy is everywhere.

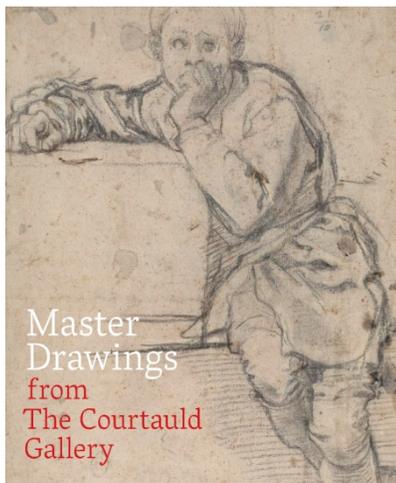


Paul Cézanne (1839–1906), *Apples, Bottle and Chairback*, c. 1904–1906, graphite and watercolor on wove paper, 18 x 23.8 inches; © The Samuel Courtauld Trust, The Courtauld Gallery, London

Cézanne composes in both line and color; the vigorous graphite under drawing functions not only as a sort of armature or palimpsest, but reinforces the structure of every object, endowing each motif with an interior dynamism that in no way impugns the monumentality and solidity of the composition. Despite its mundane subject matter,

Cézanne's *Apples, Bottle and Chairback* achieves a grandeur and joyousness that are celebratory. "A strong sensation of nature," Cézanne wrote to a friend in January of 1904, "was the necessary basis of every conception of art." No less essential, however, was to know the "means of expressing our emotion," something that could only be gained "through long experience." In its fusion of deeply felt emotion and mastery of the means of expression, The Courtauld's magisterial, late watercolor perfectly exemplifies Cézanne's credo.

PUBLICATION



The accompanying catalogue, *Master Drawings from The Courtauld Gallery*, is co-published by The Courtauld Gallery and The Frick Collection in association with Paul Holberton publishing, London. It is introduced with an essay by Stephanie Buck, and brings together twenty authors who wrote entries on individual works in their areas of specialty, often revealing new technical research undertaken at The Courtauld. Among the contributors are Denise Allen, Colin B. Bailey, Caroline Campbell, Susan Grace Galassi, Julian Brooks, Christopher White, Chris Fischer, Margret Stuffmann and David Solkin. The book is published in hardcover (\$60.00; member price \$54.00) and paperback (\$39.95; member price \$35.96) editions and features 287 pages with

approximately 200 color illustrations. It is available in the Museum Shop, on the Web site (www.frick.org), and by phone at 212.547.6848.

RELATED EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Lectures

Unless otherwise noted, lectures are free. No reservations are necessary, and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Lectures will be webcast live and thereafter can be viewed on the Frick's Web site or the institution's channel on FORA.tv.

Title *Dürer's Ambitions as a Young Draftsman*
Date Wednesday, October 3, 6:00 p.m.
Speaker Stephanie Buck, Martin Halusa Curator of Drawings, The Courtauld Gallery, London

The exhibition's co-curator will discuss the early figure studies of Albrecht Dürer, using as a starting point his pen-and-ink drawing of *A Wise Virgin*, executed in 1493 during his formative years of travel. The lecture will explore the young artist's highly ambitious artistic personality, as expressed particularly clearly in his drawings.

Title *Leonardo's Mary Magdalene: An Ideal of Painting and the Power of Love*
Date Wednesday, October 17, 6:00 p.m.
Speaker Luke Syson, Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Curator in Charge, Department of European Sculpture and Decorative Arts, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Leonardo da Vinci's fragmentary sheet depicting Mary Magdalene is among the artist's most beautiful and least studied drawings. From this small sketch came his revolutionary portraits *The Lady with an Ermine* and *La Belle Ferronnière*, and later his mysteriously moving *Saint John the Baptist*. With these works, Leonardo demonstrated how painting could occupy a space between the sacred and the profane, the real and the imagined, the present and the remote, and the actual and the implied.

Title *Turner and the Love of Art*
Date Wednesday, November 28, 6:00 p.m.
Speaker David H. Solkin, Walter H. Annenberg Professor of the History of Art,
Dean and Deputy Director, The Courtauld Institute of Art, London

J.M.W. Turner often has been characterized as one of the most competitive figures in the history of European art, as someone who regarded the greatest masters (both past and present) as his rivals and who, by modeling his work on theirs, strove to demonstrate the superiority of his genius. This lecture explores what is arguably a more important dimension of Turner's "imitations": his abiding love of great art and the individuals who produced it.

Title *Thinking with the Hand: Six Centuries of Drawings*
Date Saturday, January 26, 2:00 p.m.
Speaker Jack Flam, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Art and Art History, Brooklyn College and the
Graduate Center of the City University of New York

The pictorial languages developed in drawings since the early Renaissance have been remarkably rich and varied. Focusing on works presented in the special exhibition *Mantegna to Matisse*, this lecture will explore the ways in which different means of representation have evolved over the past six centuries; the evocative and exploratory nature of drawing; and how individual drawings convey ideas as well as feelings, reflecting the values of the times in which they were produced. *This lecture is free with museum admission.*

Gallery Talks—*Free with admission. Advance reservations are required; to register, please visit our Web site.*

Vincent van Gogh's Portrait of a Peasant
Saturdays at 12:00 noon, November 10, December 8, and January 12

Join curators for a close look at van Gogh's *Portrait of a Peasant (Patience Escalier)*, on loan to the Frick from the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena, California.

Seminar

Seminars provide unparalleled access to works of art and encourage thought-provoking discussion with experts in their fields. Sessions, held when the galleries are closed to the public, are limited to twenty participants. Advance registration is required; register online or by calling 212.547.0704. \$100 (\$90 for Members).

Title *Mantegna to Matisse: A Closer Look*
Date Thursday, November 1, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Speaker Colin B. Bailey, Deputy Director and Peter Jay Sharp Chief Curator, The Frick Collection

This seminar will explore the various functions that drawing has assumed in Western European art through an exploration of master drawings from The Courtauld Gallery, which are featured in the special exhibition.

Courses

The Frick is pleased to offer courses for college students and recent graduates under the age of 35. Space is limited to twenty participants and advance registration is required; please visit our Web site or e-mail students@frick.org. A \$25 annual fee is payable upon acceptance and includes student membership to the Frick.

Title *Topics in Italian Renaissance Art*
Dates Three-part course: October 11, 18 & 25, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
Instructor Olivia Powell, Samuel H. Kress Interpretive Fellow, The Frick Collection

Leave your textbooks behind and study Italian Renaissance art up close in the galleries of the Frick. From Duccio to Michelangelo, this course will highlight masterpieces from the permanent collection as well as loans from The Courtauld Gallery, London, including a rarely seen Leonardo drawing. No prior art history experience is necessary.

The Frick Connection—for college students and recent graduates

Title *Drawing Lessons from the Old Masters*
Dates Three-part course: October 23 & 30 and November 6, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Instructor Kit White, artist

In this art class, draw to discover how an artist sees, thinks, and learns from the Old Master painters and sculptors represented in The Frick Collection. Undergraduates and recent grads of all skill levels are welcome to join this course led by the author of *101 Things to Learn in Art School*. All materials are provided.

Gallery Conversations

Each hour-long session will invite comparisons between a painting from the permanent collection and one drawing from the Courtauld special exhibition.

The Landscapes of Claude Lorrain, Saturday, October 13, 12:00 noon

Biblical Women, Saturday, November 3, 12:00 noon

Ingres and the Female Form, Saturday, December 1, 12:00 noon

Turner's Romantic Vision, Saturday, December 15, 12:00 noon

Still Lifes by Chardin and Cézanne, Saturday, January 26, 12:00 noon

BASIC INFORMATION

General Information Phone: 212.288.0700

Web site: www.frick.org

E-mail: info@frick.org

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

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

Admission: \$18; senior citizens \$15; students \$10; "pay as you wish" on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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: included in the price of admission is an Acoustiguide Audio Tour of the permanent collection. 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.

#202, August 9, 2012

For further press information, please contact Heidi Rosenau, Head of Media Relations & Marketing, or Alexis Light, Manager of Media Relations & Marketing

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