



PRESS RELEASE

from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

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

MEDIA ALERT: EXHIBITION MARKING 400TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SPANISH MASTER MURILLO TO FOCUS ON PORTRAITURE

The Frick Collection, New York: November 1, 2017 through February 4, 2018

The National Gallery, London: February 28 through May 21, 2018



Murillo, *Self-Portrait*, c. 1650–55, oil on canvas, 42 x 30 ½ inches, The Frick Collection, New York; photo: Michael Bodycomb

One of the most celebrated painters of the Spanish Golden Age, Bartolomé Esteban Murillo worked primarily in Seville, where he was born in December 1617, until his death in 1682. Well known for his religious paintings and his extraordinary depictions of street urchins, he was also an ingenious painter of portraits. This genre remains, however, the least studied aspect of his work. Inspired by the self-portraits in their holdings, New York's Frick Collection and London's National Gallery are presenting a 2017–18 show that will mark the 400th anniversary of this great artist's birth. *Murillo: The Self-Portraits* will open at the Frick from November 1, 2017, through February 4, 2018 before moving on to the London institution for a showing from February 28 through May 21, 2018. The exhibition is jointly organized by the Frick's Peter Jay Sharp Chief Curator **Xavier F. Salomon** and **Letizia Treves**, Curator of Later Italian, Spanish, and French 17th-Century Paintings, National Gallery.

In 1682, an inventory of the possessions of Gaspar Murillo, the painter's son, lists the following: "Item. Another canvas of the portrait of Don Bartholome Murillo with its legend below and its frame completely gilded at three hundred reales. Item. Another portrait canvas of said Don Bartholome Murillo made by his own hand of a bar and a third with its frame of gilded adornments and half a cane bid on at three-hundred and seventy and five reales." These two self-portraits are the only known images of the painter by his own hand. The first one, recently acquired by The Frick Collection, was painted about 1650–55, while the second, now in The National Gallery, London, is from about 1670. They have not been seen together since at least the early eighteenth century.

To provide context to these canvases, the exhibition will also feature a group of fifteen other works on loan from international private and public collections. These will include paintings of other sitters by Murillo, as well as later reproductions of the two paintings that reflect their fame in Europe. A catalogue published by the Frick in association with Yale University Press will investigate the history of the two paintings and their prestigious provenances in France and England.

Comments Xavier F. Salomon, “As an American collector, Henry Clay Frick had a particular taste for Spanish painting, which is reflected today in our galleries. In 2014, Mrs. Henry Clay Frick II gave the museum the first of these paintings acquired by Mr. Frick, Murillo’s *Self-Portrait*. We have subsequently enjoyed uniting it with works he purchased in the early years of the twentieth century, masterpieces by El Greco, Velázquez and Goya. The painting was also sent to the conservation department of the Metropolitan Museum so that it could undergo conservation and its first major technical study. We look forward to sharing those findings, through an exhibition that will reintroduce our important acquisition with new audiences in both New York and London.” Principal funding for the New York exhibition is provided by an anonymous gift in memory of Melvin R. Seiden. Additional support is generously provided by The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, Marianna and Juan Sabater, the families of George and Michael Eberstadt in memory of Vera and Walter Eberstadt, Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Horvitz, and Aso O. Tavitian, and the Spain Tourism Board, Consulate General of Spain in New York. The accompanying catalogue is underwritten by Colnaghi.

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

Where: 1 East 70th Street, near Fifth Avenue

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

Admission: \$22; senior citizens \$17; students \$12; “pay what you wish” on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1:00 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)

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

Subway: #6 local to 68th Street station and #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 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 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.

299, January 23, 2017 (revised June 27, 2017)

For further press information, please contact Heidi Rosenau, Associate Director of Media Relations & Marketing

Phone: (212) 547-6866; Email: rosenau@frick.org