



# ARCHIVED PRESS RELEASE

from

# THE FRICK COLLECTION

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## MEDIA ALERT:

### **FREDERIC LEIGHTON'S *FLAMING JUNE* TO BE ON VIEW AT THE FRICK COLLECTION NEXT SUMMER**

### **FIRST NYC SHOWING OF THE ICONIC PAINTING IN MORE THAN THIRTY-FIVE YEARS**

June 9 through September 6, 2015



Frederic Leighton (1830–1896), *Flaming June*, c.1895, oil on canvas, Museo de Arte de Ponce. The Luis A. Ferré Foundation, Inc.

Next summer, The Frick Collection will present Frederic Leighton's celebrated painting *Flaming June* from the Museo de Arte de Ponce in Puerto Rico. This monumental image of a sleeping woman in a brilliant orange gown is a masterpiece of British painting that has not been shown publicly in New York City in more than thirty-five years. Indeed, as a collection highlight of its home institution, the work is seldom lent and is rarely shown in the United States. The work will be installed on a wall in the center of the Oval Room, surrounded by the Frick's four full-length portraits by James McNeill Whistler, an artist who was part of Leighton's London circle. Both artists responded in different ways to the Aesthetic movement, a precursor to modernism. This single-work exhibition will be accompanied by an illustrated booklet with essays by Frick

Senior Curator Susan Grace Galassi and by Pablo Perez d'Ors, Associate Curator of European Paintings, Museo de Arte de Ponce. Comments Galassi, "We are very happy to have this opportunity to present a work by Frederic Leighton and to collaborate with the distinguished Puerto Rican museum—both for the first time. Seeing the British painter's arresting masterpiece surrounded by the four full-length portraits by the American expatriate—long familiar to a Frick

audience—will bring out the distinctive qualities of each of these dominating figures. We also look forward to deepening the experience for visitors through related public programming and other offerings.” Support for the exhibition is generously provided by The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation and Marianna and Juan Sabater.

Frederic Leighton (1830–1896) was a prominent painter and sculptor active in London for nearly four decades. An intellectual artist known chiefly for his treatment of literary subjects, he produced a wide-ranging oeuvre that bridges academic classicism and modernism. His interests in the evocation of mood and in the harmonies of color and line in their own right are especially evident in his depictions of women in states of slumber or deep self-reflection. A favored subject of later nineteenth-century artists, the “sleeping beauty” embodied notions of timelessness and remoteness from the mundane and alluded to antique and Renaissance representations of women in repose.

Based on works by Michelangelo and developed through meticulous studies of a live model, the figure in Leighton’s *Flaming June* appears at once a carefully wrought design and supremely natural. The woman’s sinuous form fills the space of the picture. Her torso and limbs are compressed into a rhythmic arrangement of curves and angles. With remarkable skill, Leighton conveys the weight of the body and suggests the pulse of living flesh beneath gauzy veils of fabric. The vibrant colors of gown, scarves, and hair blaze against cool white stone, and the reflection of the bright midday sun on the shimmering sea in the background evokes a sultry atmosphere brimming with sensuality. The bold approach both to color and to the presentation of the female body distinguishes this modern classical masterpiece.

## **ABOUT THE MUSEUM DE ARTE DE PONCE**

The Museo de Arte de Ponce was founded in 1959 by Don Luis A. Ferré (1904–2003), a patron of the arts and an influential figure in the political and cultural landscape of Puerto Rico. The museum’s comprehensive collection includes approximately 5,000 objects dating from the ninth century B.C. to the present, including paintings, sculptures, prints, photographs, drawings, decorative arts, pre-Hispanic and African and Puerto Rican crafts, contemporary ceramics, and video works. The strength of the collection lies in nineteenth-century English paintings and Baroque examples from the seventeenth century. Important examples by Puerto Rican and Latin American artists provide a unique dialogue between Europe and the Americas. *Flaming June* is a beloved highlight of the collection. Other signature works include *Head of the Magi* by Sir Peter Paul Rubens, *King Arthur’s Dream in Avalon* by C. Edward Burne-Jones, and the imposing twenty-five-foot tall Roy Lichtenstein sculpture *Brushstrokes in Flight*, which was donated to the institution in 2010. For further information please visit <http://www.museoarteponce.org/>

## **ABOUT THE FRICK COLLECTION AND 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 bring a special ambiance to the galleries, while the interior garden and the amenities created since the founder’s time in the 1930s contribute to the serenity of the visitor’s experience. The Frick Collection also is renowned for its small, focused exhibitions and for its highly regarded concert series and dynamic education program.

Adjoining The Frick Collection is the Frick Art Reference Library, founded more than ninety years ago by Henry Clay Frick’s daughter, Helen Clay Frick. Housed in a landmarked building at 10 E. 71st Street, the Library is one of the world’s leading institutions for research in the fields of art history and collecting. More than a quarter of its specialist book stock is not held by any other library. The Frick Art Reference Library is open to the public free of charge.

## **BASIC INFORMATION FOR FRICK VISITORS**

**General Information Phone:** 212.288.0700

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

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

**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:** \$20; senior citizens \$15; students \$10; “pay what you wish” on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1:00 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.

**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, Associate Director of Media Relations & Marketing  
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