



PRESS RELEASE

from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

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MEDIA ALERT: SUMMER SHOW PRESENTS MAJOR GIFT

THE PURSUIT OF IMMORTALITY: MASTERPIECES FROM THE SCHER COLLECTION OF PORTRAIT MEDALS

May 9 through September 10, 2017



Pisanello, *Leonello d'Este / Two Men with Baskets* (reverse), ca. 1445, bronze, 68.9 mm, The Frick Collection, gift of Stephen K. and Janie Woo Scher, 2016; photo: Michael Bodycomb



The Frick Collection recently announced the largest acquisition in its history—a gift of approximately 450 portrait medals from the incomparable collection of Stephen K. and Janie Woo Scher. Comprising superlative examples from the art form's invention in Renaissance Italy through four centuries of its flourishing across

Europe, the Scher Collection is arguably the world's most comprehensive and significant

collection of portrait medals in private hands. Comments Director Ian Wardropper, "Henry Clay Frick had an abiding interest in portraiture as expressed in the paintings, sculpture, enamels, and works on paper he acquired. The Scher medals will coalesce beautifully with these holdings, being understood in our galleries within the broader contexts of European art and culture. At the same time, the intimate scale of the institution will offer a superb platform for the medals to be appreciated as an independent art form, one long overdue for fresh attention and public appreciation."



David d'Angers, *Empress Josephine Lapagerie Bonaparte*, ca. 1832, gilt bronze, 177.8 mm, The Frick Collection, gift of Stephen K. and Janie Woo Scher, 2016; photo: Michael Bodycomb



Sebastian Dadler *Ferdinand III, Holy Roman*, dated 1649, silver, struck, 77.6 mm, The Frick Collection, gift of Stephen K. and Janie Woo Scher, 2016; photo: Michael Bodycomb



This summer, The Frick Collection celebrates the gift of the Scher Collection with *The Pursuit of Immortality: Masterpieces from the Scher Collection of Portrait Medals*. The exhibition, which showcases more than 120 medals along with sculptures and works on paper from the Frick's own holdings, examines the history of these objects and the range and versatility of the fine art form. Exploring medals as essential to the history of

portraiture in Western art—produced by artists who were also well-known painters, sculptors, and printmakers, from Pisanello in Renaissance Italy to David d'Angers in nineteenth-century France—the exhibition honors portrait

medals as a triumph of sculptural production on a small scale. As part of the exhibition, a short film demonstrates one method by which medals were made, and visitors will have the opportunity to handle a reproduction of one of the most famous medals of the Renaissance.

The Pursuit of Immortality: Masterpieces from the Scher Collection of Portrait Medals is organized by Aimee Ng, Associate Curator at the Frick, and Stephen K. Scher, collector and art historian. Accompanying the exhibition is a richly illustrated exhibition catalogue including an essay by Aimee Ng. (In the spring of 2018, a catalogue of the entire Scher Collection will be published, featuring essays by leading medals scholars and illustrated entries about each of the almost one thousand medals in the collection).

The exhibition is made possible by the Robert H. Smith Family Foundation, with major support from an anonymous gift in memory of Melvin R. Seiden and the Centennial Foundation in honor of Matthew McLennan. Additional funding is provided by Margot and Jerry Bogert, Frances Beatty and Allen R. Adler, the Christian Keesee Charitable Trust, and Charles Hack and Angella Hearn. The exhibition catalogue is underwritten, in part, by a grant from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

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; #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.

General Information Phone: 212.288.0700

#301, February 23, 2017

For further press information, please contact the Heidi Rosenau, Associate Director of Media Relations & Marketing: (212) 547-6866 or rosenau@frick.org.