



ARCHIVED PRESS RELEASE
from
THE FRICK COLLECTION

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

**THE FRICK COLLECTION ANNOUNCES TWO MAJOR GRANTS FROM
THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION
IN SUPPORT OF THREE KEY PROGRAMS**

Long-desired Addition of Evening Hours Returns to Schedule 2002

Exhibition from The Toledo Museum of Art Placed Again on Calendar

Restoration of Pre-doctoral Fellowship Program

The Frick Collection is pleased to announce that it has received two major grants from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in support of three separate projects. One grant will enable the Frick to restore a pre-doctoral curatorial fellowship program, which had been discontinued for a number of years. The other, unrelated grant is part of a special fund established by the Foundation to assist New York City cultural and performing arts organizations that were directly affected by the events of September 11, 2001. This second award will be used in two ways: first, to restore to the Frick's Fall 2002 exhibition schedule an important show of paintings from The Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio – which was cancelled last year as a result of a tremendous downturn in the number of visitors and related income after September 11 – and, second, to establish a year-long pilot program to introduce evening hours for the public. The latter program – an important component of the institution's ongoing efforts to increase its accessibility was delayed last year because of similar budgetary concerns. With the generous grant from the Mellon Foundation, this long-desired plan to offer the public the added convenience of evening hours, once a week, has been initiated and will begin Friday, May 31, 2002.

Comments Director Samuel Sachs II, “Through these two grants, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is helping The Frick Collection address a series of very important needs, and we are thrilled to be moving forward once again, establishing programs essential to our mission. This will allow greater public access as well as maintenance of a vital and stimulating exhibition program. Similarly, the commitment of The Frick Collection to the scholarly community, through training and encouraging the next generation of museum professionals, is of enormous importance.”

EVENING HOURS OFFERED FOR THE FIRST TIME

For the first time in its history, The Frick Collection will launch a program to extend its public hours on **Friday evenings, beginning May 31, 2002**. The Frick will remain open each Friday until **8:45 p.m.**, and refreshments will be available for purchase in the Garden Court after 6:30 p.m.

Director Samuel Sachs II states, “Indeed, the board and staff have long wished to add this extension to the schedule, and prior to September 11, the goal had been to look to the corporate community in support of this program. With the assistance of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, this long-desired goal is immediately achievable, and we hope that this expansion of our schedule will be particularly appealing to visitors in the tri-state area, whose work and personal schedules may have made visits before the old 6 p.m. closing hour on Fridays less convenient. We have greatly enhanced our public outreach in recent years through a variety of efforts and amenities, and we are delighted to announce this news.”

Among the other nearby institutions offering extended hours on Fridays are The Metropolitan Museum of Art (Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street) and the Whitney Museum of American Art (945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street). Additionally, the Asia Society and Museum (725 Park Avenue at 70th Street, just two blocks from The Frick Collection) recently instigated its own evening hours upon reopening its renovated and expanded building.

REINSTATEMENT OF EXHIBITION MASTERPIECES FROM THE TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART

Also reinstated as a result of this grant is a special loan exhibition of paintings from The Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH, which had been removed from the schedule following budget cutbacks that were experienced by the Frick -- and so many museums -- following September 11. The return of the show to the exhibition schedule speaks to a tradition, begun in the late 1980s at The Frick Collection, of presenting extraordinary Old Master paintings from American collections that may be less well-known to the New York public. Twelve of the greatest paintings from the museum in Toledo, which celebrated its centenary in 2001, will now travel to the Frick, as originally planned. *Masterpieces of European Painting from The Toledo Museum of Art*, on view from October 29, 2002 through January 5, 2003, will present the work of certain artists not represented in the Frick's own permanent collection, among them Bassano, Primaticcio, Courbet, Pissarro, Cézanne, and Tissot. Many of these paintings also feature genres not pursued by Henry Clay Frick. Therefore, presenting these treasures here, both in the Garden Court and Oval Gallery, will illuminate another chapter in American collecting.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM TO WELCOME PRE-DOCTORAL SCHOLARS ONCE AGAIN

A separate grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will permit The Frick Collection to reinstate a fellowship program that will allow doctoral candidates in art history to complete their dissertations while also gaining experience in curatorial work. Such a program was established in 1935 with the opening of the museum and provided extremely valuable training to art historians at the beginning of their careers, who were interested in working in museums. Among previous Frick fellows are Dr. Rhonda Baer, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Dr. Larry Feinberg, The Art Institute of Chicago; Dr. William P. McNaught, Director of the American Museum in Britain; Dr. Dean Walker, Philadelphia Museum of Art; and Dr. John J. Walsh, former Director, The J. Paul Getty Museum. With the greater emphasis in recent years on organizing and hosting special exhibitions at The Frick Collection, the program was discontinued when Susan Grace Galassi, now a Curator, was hired as a full-time member of the department.

Now, with the assistance of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, a retooled and updated version of this program will be established. It begins in September of 2002 with the first of five pre-doctoral students, who will participate in a staggered manner over the course of six years, each holding a two-year residency. Each Andrew W. Mellon Fellow will benefit from object-based training within the institution under the supervision and guidance of the curatorial department. The resident Fellows will conceive of and execute a focus-presentation around a work of art in the Collection. They will also play an instrumental role in the organization of the annual Symposium on the History of Art (a two-day event co-sponsored with the Institute of Fine Arts, now in its sixty-second year), and, from time to time, will lecture to the public. It is expected that each Andrew W. Mellon Fellow will have finished their doctoral dissertation at the end of the residency period, and that the six-year program will bring to the scholarly community five promising museum professionals who will have developed a network of colleagues, while completing an important piece of research.

Comments Chief Curator Colin B. Bailey, “We are absolutely delighted once again to welcome pre-doctoral fellows to The Frick Collection, where they will benefit from a superb environment for training with our “faculty” of curatorial advisors, while taking advantage of the rich research materials offered at the Frick Art Reference Library, one of the world’s premiere research repositories. We extend the deepest gratitude to The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their assistance, which will allow us to engage in this endeavor – starting with the first participant in September 2002. It is an exciting moment for The Frick Collection, to be able to revive an esteemed program, particularly as there are so few such opportunities for curatorial training at this level.”

ABOUT THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is a private foundation, with assets of approximately \$4 billion, which makes grants on a selective basis to institutions in higher education; museums and art conservation; performing arts; population; conservation and the environment; and public affairs. Information about the

Foundation, including its annual reports and announcements concerning this special fund is available on its website (<http://www.mellon.org>).

ABOUT THE FRICK COLLECTION

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 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.

Renowned for its small, focused exhibitions and for its highly regarded concert series and lectures, The Frick Collection also operates the Frick Art Reference Library, founded by Henry Clay Frick’s daughter, Miss 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

E-mail: info@frick.org

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

Hours: 10am to 6pm Tuesdays through Saturdays, and from 1pm to 6pm Sundays. **STARTING MAY 31, 2002, The Frick will remain open on Friday evenings until 8:45pm.** Closed Mondays, New Year’s Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, December 24, and December 25. Limited hours (1 to 6pm) on Lincoln’s Birthday, Election Day, and Veterans Day.

Admission: \$10 (students and senior citizens, \$5)

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

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 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 closes at 5:45pm, and is open otherwise the same days and hours as the Museum.

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.

#49, April 26, 2002

For further press information, please contact Heidi Rosenau, Manager of Media Relations & Marketing, or Stephanie Ruggiero, Media Relations & Marketing Coordinator

Media Relations Phone: (212) 547-6844

General Phone: (212) 288-0700
Fax: (212) 628-4417
E-mail address: mediarelations@frick.org