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THE FRICK COLLECTION

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Memling's Portraits Attracts Record Attendance and Inspires Temporary Extension of Hours

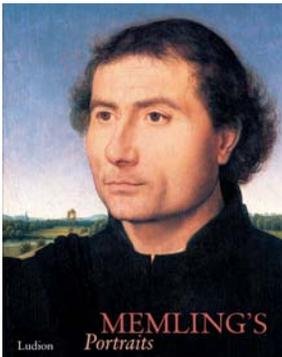
On view through December 31, 2005

The Frick Collection's exclusive North American presentation of *Memling's Portraits* is expected to have record numbers for both attendance and catalogue sales. Remaining on view through December 31, the exhibition provides the most comprehensive overview ever undertaken of Hans Memling's career in portraiture, offering nearly two-thirds of the artist's recorded works in that genre. Considered an unprecedented viewing opportunity and one unlikely to be repeated, the show has been referred to in *The New York Times* as "an ideal experience" that is "perfect in scale" and in *The New York Sun* as "perfectly executed" and "a gleaming precious gem of a show." *The Wall Street Journal* comments that "the show makes you feel



Hans Memling, *Diptych of Maarten van Nieuwenhove* (detail), Dated 1487, Panel, each 52 x 41.5 cm, Musea Brugge, Hospitaalmuseum, OCMW Brugge, inv.OSJ178.1

as if you are in the presence of something miraculous." In the first two months of its presentation, *Memling's Portraits* attracted approximately 30 percent more visitors to the Frick than are customarily found during the busy holiday period, vying in attendance only with *Whistler, Women, and Fashion* (2003) and *Victorian Fairy Painting* (1998). In response to this level of interest, the museum has extended its Friday evening hours by two hours until 8 p.m. in the two special exhibition galleries only (the permanent collection remains open until 6 p.m.).



Memling's Portraits exhibition catalogue by author Till-Holger Borchert with Maryan W. Ainsworth, Lorne Campbell, and Paula Nuttall; \$40; available online at www.frick.org; by calling (212) 288-0700, or at The Frick Collection's Museum Shop

The critically acclaimed catalogue may also prove to be the Frick's most popular publication in its history, selling out in the first few weeks of the show. It is now in stock again and available online or in the Shop.

Director Anne L. Poulet comments, “It has been deeply rewarding to see this talented and influential artist from the fifteenth century finding new appreciation among museum-goers in the twenty-first. The interest shown by the public for his work suggests that scholarship on Memling’s oeuvre will only grow going forward, and we are thrilled to have played a role in stimulating that process. We are grateful to the collaborating institutions, the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid, and the Groeningemuseum, Bruges; the many national and international lenders; and the generous sponsors who made this presentation possible. I wish also to thank our devoted staff members, including Chief Curator Colin B. Bailey, who initiated the project with his colleagues in Bruges and Madrid and coordinated the exhibition’s New York showing.”

Major funding for *Memling’s Portraits* has been provided by The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, with generous support from Melvin R. Seiden in honor of Joseph Koerner, Meg Koster, and Leo Anselm Koerner. Additional support has been provided by The Samuel H. Kress Foundation, The Council of The Frick Collection, the Consulate General of Belgium in New York, The Helen Clay Frick Foundation, and the Fellows of The Frick Collection. This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities.

This project is also supported, in part, by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



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

SPECIAL EXTENDED HOURS OFFERED THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2005: the lower-level exhibition galleries featuring *Memling’s Portraits* remain open on Friday evenings until 8pm.

Admission: \$15; senior citizens \$10; students \$5; “pay as you wish” on Sundays from 11am to 1pm

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 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.

#100, December 15, 2005

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

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