



PRESS RELEASE

from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

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FRICK COLLECTION ANNOUNCES A MAJOR PAINTING ACQUISITION

MURILLO'S SELF-PORTRAIT TO COMPLEMENT THE MUSEUM'S SIGNIFICANT BODY OF SPANISH WORKS



Murillo, *Self-Portrait*, c. 1650-55, oil on canvas, 42 x 30 1/2 inches,
The Frick Collection, New York, gift of † Dr. and Mrs. Henry Clay
Frick II; photo: Michael Bodycomb

In recent years, The Frick Collection has showcased its strength in Spanish paintings through acclaimed exhibitions, publications, events on Velázquez, El Greco, and Goya, and the collecting taste for such works. The focus is warranted, given founder Henry Clay Frick's early travels to Spain and his deep interest in Spanish artists. Less known, however, is the fact that his first acquisition of Iberian painting was a significant self-portrait by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (1617–82), a work that has remained in the Frick family since its purchase in 1904. The painting has come to the New York museum as the gift of Mrs. Henry Clay Frick II and the late Dr. Henry Clay Frick II. It is on view in the South Hall.

Comments Director Ian Wardropper, "We are pleased to share with the public this work by Murillo, a major baroque artist who has not been represented in our holdings despite his significance in the canon of Spanish painting. Our permanent collection continuously evolves—sometimes through gifts, sometimes through purchase—and this growth has occurred over the decades within every media purchased by Henry Clay Frick, each addition amplifying our understanding of various schools and artists. With this very significant acquisition, we are eager to consider our Spanish paintings again in a new light and through fresh scholarship." Adds Peter Jay Sharp Chief

Curator Xavier F. Salomon, “It is wonderful to see this Murillo join the eight masterpieces of Spanish painting already at the Frick. This unique work is one of the most important examples in the United States by the artist and is the only self-portrait by him in this country. It is one of only two self-portraits that Murillo painted, in fact, the other being at the National Gallery in London. This acquisition will beautifully co-exist with our notable body of Spanish painting in terms of its aesthetic qualities, importance, and provenance, and we keenly anticipate sharing it with public.”



The Murillo was installed at Eagle Rock, the family home in Pride's Crossing, Massachusetts. In this 1931 photo, the work is shown in the Morning Room. The Frick Collection/Frick Art Reference Library Archive

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. It includes extensive archives and a photo archive that make it an important resource for provenance research. Its catalog, finding aids, and many full-text documents and images are available online at <http://arcade.nyarc.org>. The Library also supports the Center for the History of Collecting, which organizes symposia and awards fellowships. The Frick Art Reference Library is open to the public free of charge.

BASIC INFORMATION

General Information Phone: 212.288.0700

Web site: www.frick.org

E-mail: info@frick.org

Where: 1 East 70th Street, near Fifth Avenue

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 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 Admission for the Permanent Collection: Please call 212.288.0700 for details and to make reservations.

Public Programs: A calendar of events is published regularly, and programs are listed on the Web site.

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