



# ARCHIVED PRESS RELEASE

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## THE FRICK COLLECTION

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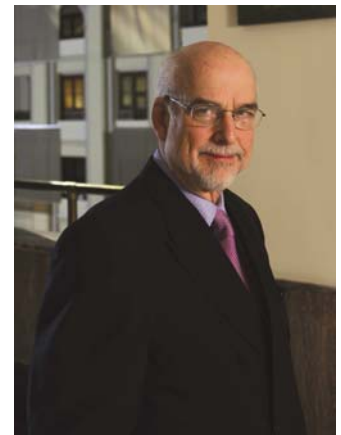
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### **Frick to Hire First Decorative Arts Curator Campaign to Create an Endowed Position Made Possible by an NEH Challenge Grant**

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded The Frick Collection a \$750,000 challenge grant which, when fully matched with \$3 million in private and foundation contributions, will enable the museum to appoint its first Curator of Decorative Arts, an endowed position. The curator, a senior specialist in the field, will help to interpret the museum's outstanding decorative arts collections (furniture, porcelain, enamels, silver, clocks), devise humanities-based programming (exhibitions, publications, lectures, and educational programs), assist with conservation issues relating to these collections, advise on acquisitions of decorative arts objects, and help to augment the Library's holdings of reference materials and resources on the decorative arts, all with the intention of increasing the public's awareness of and access to these outstanding collections at the Frick.

Comments Frick Collection **Director Anne L. Poulet**, "Our holdings in the decorative arts represent a very significant component of Henry Clay Frick's bequest to the public—more than 50 percent of the total number of objects. It was Mr. Frick's desire that the collections should be a source of enjoyment, contemplation, and study for the public, and with the generous grant awarded by the NEH, we will further fulfill this vision." **NEH Chairman Bruce Cole** said, "In supporting the beloved cultural treasure that is The Frick Collection, we see an opportunity to serve the public. In enhancing its exhibitions, public programming, and scholarly resources, the Frick will offer its many audiences



Bruce Cole, NEH Chairman, comments on the grant to the Frick, photo: Dennis Brack, Alexandria, Virginia

fresh perspectives on an important aspect of its holdings. They are embarking on an exciting path, and we are proud to play a supportive role.”

## **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. Fine artists represented include Bellini, Constable, Corot, Fragonard, Gainsborough, Goya, El Greco, Holbein, Ingres, Manet, Monet, Rembrandt, Renoir, Titian, Turner, Velázquez, Vermeer, and Whistler.

## **DECORATIVE ARTS HOLDINGS**

While its collection of paintings and sculpture is among the best in the world, the Frick is equally renowned for a decorative arts collection that is unmatched in quality for its size. It includes the finest examples of Limoges enamels, Chinese and French porcelains, French eighteenth-century furniture by artists including André-Charles Boulle, Jean-Henri Riesener, and Martin Carlin, and seventeenth- and eighteenth-century clocks and watches. In recent years, many of these objects have been featured in the museum’s critically acclaimed special exhibitions program. Projects have included a major exhibition of clocks and watches, the renovation of the Enamels Room to better present a range of Renaissance decorative arts, the examination of an exceedingly rare eighteenth-century mechanical table, and the conservation and display of important Mughal carpets. This summer, the Frick presented ***Rococo Exotic: French Mounted Porcelains and the Allure of the East***, its first porcelain exhibition in fifteen years. Organized by Kristel Smentek, Andrew W. Mellon Curatorial Fellow, the project invited the public to view permanent collection objects in a new way, the acclaimed exhibition focused on a pair of Chinese vases decorated with rococo gilt bronze mounts. It explored the design sources that inspired them by incorporating a selection of drawings and prints, as well as examples of natural elements such as shells and coral.

## **ABOUT THE FRICK ART REFERENCE LIBRARY**

The Frick also operates the Frick Art Reference Library, founded by Henry Clay Frick's daughter, Miss Helen Clay Frick, and serving the international art world for more than eighty years. 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. In 2006, plans were announced to establish a Center for the History of Collecting in America, to be located at the Frick Art Reference Library's building at 10 East 71<sup>st</sup> Street.

## **BASIC INFORMATION**

**General Information Phone:** (212) 288-0700

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

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

**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.

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

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