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THE FRICK COLLECTION

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FRICK COLLECTION ANNOUNCES SIGNIFICANT EXTENSION ON THE LOAN OF A PAINTING BY PARMIGIANINO

RECORD ATTENDANCE IN FEBRUARY AS PARMIGIANINO EXHIBITION ATTRACTS HIGH VISITATION AND PRAISE



Parmigianino (1503–1540)
Portrait of a Man with a Book, c. 1523-24
Oil on canvas, 70 x 52 cm
York Art Gallery, United Kingdom

Frick Collection visitors now have an extended opportunity to view a painting by the Renaissance artist Parmigianino (1503–1540), *Portrait of a Man with a Book*. Currently on loan to the Frick, the work comes from a British collection, the York Art Gallery, and is featured in the highly praised current special exhibition *A Beautiful and Gracious Manner: The Art of Parmigianino*. Although the show, now at its last venue, closes to the public on April 18, the painting from York will remain on view at the Frick through Sunday, November 21, 2004. It represents an outstanding complement to the holdings of the museum, which—despite a great strength in sixteenth-century paintings, sculptures, and decorative arts—does not otherwise include any works by this artist. Once controversial, the attribution of *Portrait of a Man with a Book* to Parmigianino (previously given to Correggio) has

recently been substantiated by the discovery of its listing as such in documents pertaining to the famous Farnese Collection in Rome. During the run of *A Beautiful and Gracious Manner: The Art of Parmigianino*, the portrait has been a highlighted work, greeting visitors at the entrance to the presentation. Following the close of the exhibition, the canvas will move into the Anteroom, a permanent collection gallery on the principal floor of the mansion, where it will be displayed along with such cabinet-scale pictures as Memling's *Portrait of a Man* and El Greco's *Purification of the Temple*.

The extension of the loan, possible thanks to a refurbishment project at the York Art Gallery, comes at a wonderful time in terms of public appreciation for the work of Parmigianino. Indeed, the related special exhibition at the

Frick, which was organized by the National Gallery of Canada, has attracted surprisingly high visitation this winter. It opened in New York on January 27, 2004, and became the immediate and ongoing subject of critical acclaim in the press, soon shattering the museum's overall attendance records for the month of February. Also during that month, the museum attracted nearly twice as many visitors to this special exhibition than had ever attended such programming at the Frick in past winters.

Comments Chief Curator Colin B. Bailey, "It is tremendously generous of the York Art Gallery to leave Parmigianino's magnificent brooding portrait in our care for a year. The introspection of the unidentified sitter—youthful and self-assured, cultivated and something of a dandy, perhaps—strikes a particularly modern note. Clearly this work has yet to reveal all of its secrets, and we are hopeful that the sojourn at the Frick might stimulate renewed inquiry into its meaning and significance."

SPECIAL LECTURE AND VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES

The Frick Collection has added to its public program calendar a FREE lecture on **Wednesday, April 14** at 6 pm, by Mary Vaccaro of the University of Texas at Arlington, who is an authority on the artist. In her lecture, *Parmigianino, Painter of Grace: Reflections on Artistic Process and Style*, Dr. Vaccaro will consider the arduous means by which the artist arrived at pictures of seemingly effortless and intensely poetic grace. Indeed, among the most influential of Italian Renaissance artists, Parmigianino was hailed by his contemporaries as "Raphael reborn." Although he made sketchlike paintings, his working method more typically involved the protracted revision of his ideas through preparatory drawings. *There is no charge for this lecture, and seating is limited.*

Those who find the weekends most convenient for a museum visit may wish to try the Frick's Friday evenings, when the museum remains open until 9 pm. These extended hours (initiated in 2002) are still relatively quiet and offer an excellent opportunity to view not only the special exhibition, but all of the permanent collection galleries of the 1914 mansion (where you will find works by Vermeer, Rembrandt, Titian, Velázquez, Renoir, Whistler, Holbein, Gainsborough, and many others). Furthermore, on Friday evenings, refreshments may be purchased in the Garden Court starting at 6 pm. On the first and third Friday of each month at 6:30 pm, a free gallery talk on some highlight of the Collection is offered (the program scheduled for the third Friday of the month is also sign-language interpreted). No reservations are required for the Friday evening gallery talks (upcoming dates include March 19, April 2, and April 16).

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

A Beautiful and Gracious Manner: The Art of Parmigianino is the only celebration being mounted in the United

States to mark the 500th anniversary of the artist's birth. It presents fifty-one drawings that span the artist's career and illustrate the genius of his achievement. These sheets are accompanied by seven jewel-like oil paintings, similar to them in scale and refinement, which evoke the correspondences between Parmigianino's fluent handling of oil and the graphic media. Parmigianino was the first Italian painter to experiment with printmaking, and the dozen prints included in the exhibition feature his pioneering etchings that were so highly prized by Renaissance collectors for their inimitable choreography of line. The exhibition also commemorates Parmigianino's gifts as a portraitist by presenting swiftly executed sketches and two works in oil, notable, as are all his portraits, for their acutely observed detail and enigmatic psychology.



Curated by **David Franklin**, Deputy Director and Chief Curator, National Gallery of Canada, and coordinated at the Frick by Associate Curator **Denise Allen**, the exhibition was made possible, in part, by a major grant from the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation with additional generous support from Mr. and Mrs. Howard Phipps, Jr., Melvin R. Seiden, The Helen Clay Frick Foundation, Hester Diamond, W. Mark Brady, Diane Allen Nixon, and the Fellows of The Frick Collection.

Parmigianino (1503–1540)
Saturn and Philyra, c. 1531–35
Pen and brown ink and brown wash with white heightening over black chalk underdrawing
11 x 8.1 cm
Royal Collection © 2004 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

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, with recently expanded hours: 10 am to 6 pm on Tuesdays through Thursdays and on Saturdays; 10 am to 9 pm on Fridays; and 1 pm to 6 pm on Sundays. Closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and December 25. Limited hours (1 to 6 pm) on Lincoln's Birthday, Election Day, and Veterans Day.

Admission: \$12 for the general public; \$8 for seniors, and \$5 for students

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 Stephanie Ruggiero, Media Relations & Marketing Coordinator

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