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from
THE FRICK COLLECTION

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**FRICK COLLECTION TO BE THE ONLY NORTH AMERICAN VENUE FOR
*MASTER DRAWINGS FROM THE SMITH COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART***

June 19 through August 12, 2001

The Smith College Museum of Art in Northampton, Massachusetts, is widely acknowledged to have one of the most important college art collections in America, and one of its extraordinary strengths is its renowned collection of master drawings. During the summer of 2001, New York audiences will have the opportunity to view a superb selection of these works on paper -- spanning some six centuries of draftsmanship -- when Smith lends an important selection of these works to The Frick Collection, the only North American venue on an international tour. The exhibition features sixty-eight sheets, ranging from a rare silverpoint drawing of the late fifteenth century attributed to **Dieric Bouts**, one of the most celebrated of all early Netherlandish portrait drawings, to a 1954 watercolor by **Mark Tobey**.

Among the other artists represented in the exhibition are Northern European masters **Matthias Grünewald, Jan van Goyen, Adolph von Menzel, Piet Mondrian, and Paul Klee**. Italian artists include **Fra Bartolommeo, Rosso Fiorentino, Federico Barocci, Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, and Francesco Guardi**. Represented are many artists who worked in France, among them **Jean-Honoré Fragonard, François Boucher, Jacques-Louis David, Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, Théodore Géricault, Edgar Degas, James Tissot, Pierre-August Renoir, Vincent van Gogh, Paul Cézanne, Georges**

Pierre Seurat, Paul Gauguin, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Marc Chagall, and Henri Matisse.

Featured English masters include **Paul Sandby, Thomas Gainsborough, Aubrey Beardsley, and Henry Moore**, while **Elihu Vedder, Maurice Prendergast, Charles Burchfield, Arthur Dove, Willem de Kooning**, and **Barnett Newman** are among the Americans.

Curator Susan Grace Galassi comments, “The Frick Collection is very pleased to collaborate with the Smith College Museum of Art in making available to our public fine examples of its extraordinarily rich holdings in works on paper. The exhibition also highlights and acknowledges the college's enduring commitment - ever since its foundation - to aesthetic study as central to its overall educational mission.”

Master Drawings from the Smith College Museum of Art is on view at The Frick Collection through August 12, 2001, before traveling to the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, where it will be on view from October 16, 2001 through January 6, 2002. Another tour venue in Europe will be announced shortly. The exhibition is organized by the Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, Massachusetts, and is made possible in part through the support of the Fellows of The Frick Collection.

Smith College was founded in 1875 to instruct young women in various fields including the “Useful and Fine Arts,” as set forth in the will of Sophia Smith, the benefactor of the institution. Drawing was a cornerstone of art studies at Smith, and in keeping with standard art instruction practices of the day, students learned by copying from paintings and sculptures by the great masters. Most of the works of art procured early by the college were acquired for this specific purpose. Over the years, philosophies changed, and they began to be acquired for their own merits. Today, the collection contains substantial holdings of works on paper, with more than 1,700 drawings, 10,000 prints, and 5,800 photographs.

ILLUSTRATED PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

A fully illustrated catalogue, which presents all of the works in the exhibition in color with many versos, has been published by Hudson Hills Press in conjunction with the exhibition. Independent scholar, Ann H. Sievers, formerly Associate Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs at the Smith College Museum of Art, is the principal author, with Linda Muehlig, Associate Curator of Painting and Sculpture at the Smith College Museum of Art, and Nancy Rich, Curator of Education. Contributions were also made by Kristen Erickson and Edward J. Nygren, former Director.

The publication begins with a chapter by Sievers about the collecting history of Smith College. In addition to a comprehensive essay about each featured drawing and numerous illustrations of related works, the book also includes an appendix illustrating watermarks, exhaustive listings of literature and exhibitions, and indexes, thus fully documenting the highlights of one of American's most distinguished repositories of master drawings. This book is available in hardcover for \$75 and in softcover for \$45 in the Museum Shop of The Frick Collection, which can be reached at (212) 288-0700.

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

**“SIGNED ALL OVER”: MASTER DRAWINGS FROM THE SMITH COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART
Wednesday, June 20, 5:30pm**

Speaker: Ann H. Sievers, Independent Scholar

In conjunction with this special summer exhibition at The Frick Collection, a free lecture will be offered in June. The speaker, independent scholar Ann H. Sievers, will discuss the history and highlights of the drawings collection at Smith.

ALSO CONTINUING THIS SUMMER:

EL GRECO: THEMES AND VARIATIONS

May 15 through to July 29, 2001

Following the critical acclaim of the recent small exhibition *Velázquez in New York Museums*, The Frick Collection offers another “focused exhibition” this spring and summer, *El Greco: Themes and Variations*, organized by Guest Curator Jonathan Brown, Carroll and Milton Petrie Professor of Fine Arts, The Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, with Susan Grace Galassi, Curator of The Frick Collection. In an exhibition of seven paintings on view together for the first time, the Frick’s own holdings, *St. Jerome* and *The Purification of the Temple*, will be shown with five other versions by El Greco borrowed from five national and international collections. Together, they present an opportunity to examine El Greco’s artistic evolution over the decades he worked in Italy and Spain. Moreover, these seven paintings call attention to an intriguing aspect of the master’s production – the recycling of compositions over long periods of time during an era when few artists did so – particularly interesting in light of the fact that his painting style was so very inventive.

ABOUT THE FRICK COLLECTION

In the elegant galleries of The Frick Collection – a museum housed in the former mansion of industrialist Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919) -- are some of the most exceptional works of Western art. Ranging from the Renaissance through the late nineteenth century, the Collection includes works by such celebrated artists as Bellini, Constable, Corot, Fragonard, Gainsborough, Goya, El Greco, Holbein, Ingres, Manet, Monet, Rembrandt, Renoir, Titian, Turner, Velázquez, Vermeer, and Whistler. In addition to major paintings by these and other masters, the Frick's galleries contain fine French porcelains, Italian bronzes, sculptures, and period furniture. The permanent collection is further enriched by frequent presentations of special exhibitions. Inspired by the eye of an individual connoisseur, The Frick Collection has grown over the years. Greeted with awe when the doors opened in 1935, today the Collection is internationally renowned as one of New York's most remarkable cultural treasures. Designed by Thomas Hastings of Carrère and Hastings and constructed in 1913-1914, the building was changed after Mrs. Frick’s death in 1931, with alterations and additions made by the architect John Russell Pope. A new Reception Hall, built in 1977, was designed by John Barrington Bayley, Harry van Dyke, and G. Frederick Poehler, as well as two temporary exhibition galleries. The Frick Collection also operates the Frick Art Reference Library at

10 East 71st Street, both a research library and a photoarchive. The Library is one of the world's great repositories for the documentation and study of Western art and 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. Closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, December 24, and December 25. Limited hours (1:00 to 6:00pm) on Lincoln's Birthday, Election Day, and Veterans Day.

Admission: \$10, general public; \$5, students & senior citizens.

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: now included in the price of admission is an 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.

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For further press information, please contact Heidi Rosenau, Communications Officer

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