



# ARCHIVED PRESS RELEASE

from

## THE FRICK COLLECTION

1 EAST 70TH STREET • NEW YORK • NEW YORK 10021 • TELEPHONE (212) 288-0700 • FAX (212) 628-4417

### MAJOR GIFT OF SCULPTURE PLACED ON VIEW AT THE FRICK COLLECTION

The Frick Collection is pleased to announce the gift of a magnificent pair of bronze animal groups attributed to the sculptor **Giovanni Francesco Susini** (c. 1575-1653) from Walter A. and Vera Eberstadt. *Lion Attacking a Horse* and *Leopard Attacking a Bull* are the first late Renaissance bronzes from the Giambologna school to enter the Collection, and they will be on public view in the Living Hall of the mansion. These beautiful sculptures, which exhibit the dynamism and technical refinement characteristic of Susini's best works, are a remarkable addition to a collection known for the outstanding character of its Renaissance bronzes. The Susinis will be displayed on the Frick's pair of late seventeenth-century marquetry pedestals from the workshop of Charles André Boulle. This new installation—in one of the most acclaimed galleries of the museum—will highlight the importance of the Eberstadts' gift and underscores the harmonious relationship between sculpture and decorative arts at The Frick Collection.

Comments Samuel Sachs II, Director, "The Susinis are of extremely high quality and represent an important addition to our distinguished collection of Renaissance and Baroque bronzes. As the first animal groups to enter the collection, they also complement the preponderantly figural bronzes which were Morgan's and Frick's taste. This gift is both welcome and timely, as we are beginning to concentrate once again on displays and exhibitions of sculpture in the permanent collection."



Attributed to Giovanni Francesco Susini (c. 1575–1653)  
*Lion Attacking a Horse*, c. 1630–40  
Bronze, 24.2 cm high, 30 cm wide  
The Frick Collection, New York; Gift of Walter A. and Vera Eberstadt  
Photo: Richard di Liberto

*Lion Attacking a Horse* and *Leopard Attacking a Bull* show predatory cats locking jaws on their prey and bringing them down. The pendant groups echo each other in elegant contrapuntal rhythm: the lion casts the horse onto its side, as the horse arches its neck backward, grappling the empty air with its hooves.

The leopard, in contrast, thrusts the bull downward onto its front knees, and it lowers its weighty head toward the ground. Such formal harmonies evoke deeper meaning, as one victim violently struggles against its fate while the other passively accepts it.



Attributed to Giovanni Francesco Susini (c. 1575–1653)  
*Leopard Attacking a Bull*, c. 1630–40  
Bronze, 11.9 cm high, 27.5 cm wide  
The Frick Collection, New York; Gift of Walter A. and Vera Eberstadt  
Photo: Richard di Liberto

Probably executed in Florence between 1630 and 1640 these bronzes are final refinements to the paradigmatic compositions showing lions attacking horses and bulls that had been invented about forty years before by Giambologna and the principal bronze caster in his shop, Antonio Susini. After inheriting Giambologna's models, Antonio cast many examples of these extremely popular groups in bronze, a practice his nephew Giovanni Francesco continued. Although the Eberstadt *Lion Attacking a Horse* derives from these earlier models, the *Leopard*

*Attacking a Bull* is believed to be Giovanni's own invention. The Eberstadt pendant group with lion and leopard are, consequently, extremely rare, and only one other example in the Liechtenstein Collection is known.

## 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 70<sup>th</sup> 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, December 24, 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 68<sup>th</sup> Street station; **Bus:** M1, M2, M3, and M4 southbound on Fifth Avenue to 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and northbound on Madison Avenue to 70<sup>th</sup> 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.

#66, May 20, 2003

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

Media Relations Phone:  
General Phone:

(212) 547-6844  
(212) 288-0700

Fax:  
E-mail address:

(212) 628-4417  
[mediarelations@frick.org](mailto:mediarelations@frick.org)