



PRESS RELEASE

from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

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MEDIA ALERT: MAJOR SERIES OF PAINTINGS BY SPANISH MASTER FRANCISCO DE ZURBARÁN TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2017 AND 2018



Zurbarán paintings and other works on display in the Long Dining Room at Auckland Castle; photo credit: Colin Davison, courtesy of Auckland Castle

In conjunction with The Meadows Museum, Dallas, Texas, and the Auckland Castle Trust, County Durham, England, The Frick Collection is co-organizing an exhibition of Jacob and His Twelve Sons, an ambitious series of thirteen life-size paintings that depict the Old Testament figures. On loan from Auckland Castle, the works by the Spanish Golden Age master Francisco de Zurbarán (1598–1664) have never travelled outside Europe.

They will be on view first in Dallas from

September 17, 2017, through January 7, 2018, after which they will be shown in New York at The Frick Collection from January 31 through April 22, 2018. In preparation for this unprecedented U.S. tour, these important seventeenth-century Spanish paintings will undergo an in-depth technical analysis at the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth. The project includes art historical and technical research, an exhibition, and publication. This international collaboration will offer the most extensive study related to Zurbarán's series. For its New York showing in 2018, the exhibition is organized by The Frick Collection's Senior Curator, Susan Grace Galassi. Principal funding for the New York exhibition is provided by an anonymous gift in memory of Melvin R. Seiden and The Christian Humann Foundation. Additional support is provided by the David Berg Foundation, Margot and Jerry Bogert, Francis Finlay, Northern Trust, an anonymous gift in memory of Charles Ryskamp, The Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, Ayesha Bulchandani, the Danny and Sylvia Fine Kaye Foundation, the Centro de Estudios Europa Hispánica, and the Spain Tourism Board, Consulate General of Spain in New York.

ABOUT THE SERIES OF PAINTINGS

The iconography of Zurbarán’s remarkable series—which was painted between 1640 and 1644—is derived from the Book of Genesis, Chapter 49. On his deathbed, Jacob called together his twelve sons, who would become the founders of the twelve tribes of Israel, which, essentially, represents the beginning of the Jewish faith. He bestowed on each a blessing, which foretold their destinies and those of their tribes. Jacob’s prophesies provide the basis for the manner in which the figures are represented in Zurbarán’s series. The story also has significance to Christians and Muslims.

The series is believed to have originally been destined for the New World, where in the seventeenth century it was commonly believed that indigenous inhabitants of the Americas were descended from the dispersal of the so-called “lost tribes of Israel.” The works were purchased by Richard Trevor, Bishop of Durham, at auction in 1756 from the collection of a Jewish merchant named James Mendez. Trevor redesigned Auckland Castle’s Long Dining Room to house the series, which constitutes one of the most significant public collections of Zurbarán’s work outside Spain. The upcoming restoration of Auckland Castle—which involves the temporary deinstallation of the series from the room where it has hung for more than 250 years—presents this extraordinary study and exhibition opportunity.

Comments Frick Director Ian Wardropper, “We are thrilled to collaborate with Auckland Castle and the Meadows Museum on the first North American showing of Francisco de Zurbarán’s extraordinary series Jacob and his Twelve Sons. The technical analysis to be carried out at the Kimbell will greatly enrich our understanding of the master’s methods, while other catalogue essays commissioned for the show will explore the works in historical, cultural, and religious contexts. The sheer visual power and rich narrative content of this series will draw visitors in and will be beautifully complemented by the Frick’s strong holdings in Spanish art, which include paintings by Velázquez and Murillo—Zurbarán’s Sevillian contemporaries—as well as by El Greco and Goya.”

INTERACT

   /FrickCollection

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BASIC INFORMATION

General Information Phone: 212.288.0700

Web site: www.frick.org

Building project: www.frickfuture.org

E-mail: info@frick.org

App: frick.org/app

Where: 1 East 70th Street, near Fifth Avenue

Museum 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: \$22; senior citizens \$17; students \$12; "pay what you wish" on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 6:00 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. The tour is offered in six languages: English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish.

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 on The Frick Collection, please contact Heidi Rosenau, Associate Director of Media Relations & Marketing;

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