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MEDIA ALERT:

SPECIAL LOAN PRESENTATION REUNITES TWO PAINTINGS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 100 YEARS

Claude Monet's *Vétheuil in Summer* from the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto

August 4 through October 4, 1998

Continuing its successful series of single-picture loan exhibitions, The Frick Collection presents **Claude Monet's** *Vétheuil in Summer* from the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, hanging in the North Hall with the Collection's own work by the artist, *Vétheuil in Winter*. For the first time in over a century these two paintings are reunited in a juxtaposition organized by **Edgar Munhall**, Curator of The Frick Collection, thanks to the generosity of the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto.

The two works share an interesting history of ownership, beginning with their purchase from **Claude Monet** (1840 – 1926) by a friend and avid collector of his work, Dr. Georges de Bellio, the winter scene in 1879, and the summer view in 1879 or 1880. By 1894, both views of Vétheuil belonged to another Parisian collector, Donop de Monchy, who had married de Bellio's daughter. After that, the works went their separate ways — not hanging together again until now — but were, at different times, in the possession of the firm Wildenstein and Co., before finding their current owners.

From 1878 to 1881, Monet, his wife Camille, and their two children lived together with the family of Ernest Hoschedé in a small house in Vétheuil, a village of some 600 inhabitants about 70 kilometers west of Paris, on the Seine. Initially, this union was intended as a summer holiday, but for various reasons, it went on for three years. During this period, which is considered to have been a turning point in the artist's life, Monet suffered the death of his wife, financial difficulties, and unfavorable critical reception.

Delighted with the unspoiled, agrarian atmosphere of Vétheuil, Monet painted the town from many angles, but most often looking back at it from a tiny studio-boat he anchored in the river. The paintings owned by The Frick Collection and the Art Gallery of Ontario share this same viewpoint. *Vétheuil in Winter* appears closer to shore and includes human presences – notably, at left, passengers in the little ferryboat that linked the village to Lavacourt, across the Seine.

This presentation follows the highly successful run of the exhibition *Monet at Vétheuil*, which brought together twelve works by Monet depicting that village. Organized by and on view at The University of Michigan Museum of Art in Ann Arbor, that exhibition traveled to the Dallas Museum of Art and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. While the Toronto painting was featured in that exhibition, The Frick one was not.

A leaflet concerning Monet's two views of Vétheuil will be available, as well as the catalogue of the recently touring exhibition.

Free Public Lecture

Wednesday, September 30, 1998, 5:30pm

Monet's Paintings at Vétheuil: The Artist's Turning Point

Speaker: Carole C. McNamara, University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor

Among the less well-known paintings of Claude Monet are those he executed in the small town of Vétheuil, northwest of Paris, in the years 1878-81. Pivotal to this period is the group of works, seen as among his first attempts at a serial manner of painting, that he executed of the frozen Seine during the severe winter of 1879-80, including The Frick Collection's *Vétheuil in Winter*. From this brief period, Monet's paintings began to sell, and he moved steadily toward the series as his preferred way of portraying landscape. *This lecture is made possible through the generosity of the Fellows of The Frick Collection and other donors.*

This lecture is open to the public without charge one half-hour before the event. If those planning to attend arrive earlier, they are expected to pay the regular gallery admission fee.

About The Frick Collection

The Frick Collection is an anthology of some of the most distinguished works of Western art from the early Renaissance through the late nineteenth century, including masterpieces by Bellini, El Greco, Rembrandt, Titian, Turner, Vermeer, Whistler, and many others housed in one of the great mansions remaining from the Gilded Age. These paintings are complemented by one of the world's finest collections of Renaissance bronzes and by great French sculpture of the eighteenth century. These treasures are surrounded by outstanding furniture and decorative art works from the ateliers of Riesener, Lacroix, Boulle, Carlin, Gouthière, and Sèvres. Each year more than 250,000 visitors from New York, across America, and around the world come to the Collection at 1 East 70th Street, once the residence of Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919). 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. In 1935 the Collection opened to the public. A new Reception Hall built in 1977, was designed by Harry van Dyke, John Barrington Bayley, and G. Frederick Poehler, in addition to two additional 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 Phones:

Collection (212) 288-0700

Library (212) 288-8700

E-mail: info@frick.org

Where: The Collection is located at 1 East 70th Street, near Fifth Avenue. The Library is around the corner at 10 East 71st Street.

Museum 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.

Library Hours: 10am to 5pm, Monday through Friday; 9:30am to 1pm on Saturday. Closed August and on Saturdays in June and July. Please call for holiday closure schedule.

Museum Admission: \$7, general public; \$5, students and senior citizens. Children under ten are not admitted to the Collection, and those under sixteen must be accompanied by an adult.

Library Admission: free.

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

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.

#4, July 24, 1998

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

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