



NEWS RELEASE

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The Frick Pittsburgh Presents

Vermeer, Monet, Rembrandt: Forging the Frick Collections in Pittsburgh and New York

April 6 – July 14, 2024

PITTSBURGH, Pa., September 14, 2023 — The Frick Pittsburgh partners with The Frick Collection in New York City for the first time to explore the celebrated collections of 19th-century industrialist Henry Clay Frick and his daughter, philanthropist Helen Clay Frick. **Vermeer, Monet, Rembrandt: Forging the Frick Collections in Pittsburgh and New York** amplifies the Fricks' shared passion for art collecting, looking at how their iconic acquisitions shaped the museums they established, and asks how we define great art today.

Vermeer, Monet, Rembrandt showcases the dramatic evolution of the Frick father-daughter art collecting dynasty, beginning in 1880s Pittsburgh, through the family's move to New York City, to the eventual creation of The Frick Art Museum in Point Breeze in 1970. Awe-inspiring masterworks, including paintings by Titian, Rembrandt, Monet, Degas, Whistler, El Greco, Ingres, and Vermeer — one of only 36 works in the world by the celebrated artist — illustrate the journey. The exhibition marks a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see artworks from these two extraordinary collections alongside — and in some cases reunited with — one another. Reflective of the range of interests embraced by the Fricks, the exhibition also includes works on paper, sculpture, and decorative arts.

The painting *Girl Interrupted at her Music* (ca. 1658–59) by Johannes Vermeer included in **Vermeer, Monet, Rembrandt**, was featured earlier this year in the Rijksmuseum's sold-out landmark **Vermeer** retrospective in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

“When Henry Clay Frick acquired *Girl Interrupted at Her Music* and displayed it briefly in Clayton, the 17th-century Dutch artist was just becoming more widely admired, thanks to a group of French 19th-century writers and artists who had discovered and promoted his work. It was a characteristically astute choice by Frick, and we're tremendously excited to bring it back to

Pittsburgh for its first public exhibition in our region,” remarks Elizabeth E. Barker, Executive Director of The Frick Pittsburgh.

“This exhibition marks an unprecedented opportunity to explore the collecting legacies of Henry Clay Frick and Helen Clay Frick side by side,” says Dawn R. Brean, Chief Curator and Director of Collections at The Frick Pittsburgh. “Works divided between our institutions will be seen together, in many cases for the first time, to illustrate art collecting’s power not only as social capital during the Fricks’ lifetimes, but also as a personal passion passed down from father to daughter. The Frick family has a complex legacy in Pittsburgh, and through this exhibition we hope to illuminate that story alongside their lesser-known personal histories.”

Adds Ian Wardropper, Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Director of The Frick Collection, “The Frick Collection and The Frick Pittsburgh have presented aspects of the family’s collecting interests in different cities, with Henry Clay Frick’s collection forming the basis of the Frick in New York and Helen Clay’s collection inspiring the program in Pittsburgh. During the current renovation of The Frick Collection’s buildings in New York City, we’re thrilled to participate in this unique exhibition, which presents a significant group of works drawn from the family’s later collecting years. Among them are truly iconic Old Master paintings never shown before in Pittsburgh, which we look forward to encountering in this new light.”

About the Exhibition

Four sections will orient visitors to **Vermeer, Monet, Rembrandt**. The first, “Early Collecting,” explores Henry Clay Frick’s acquisitions in the early years of his industrialist career as he developed the thriving H.C. Frick Coke Company and entered a lucrative business partnership with steel magnate Andrew Carnegie. Visitors will have the opportunity to see paintings that once hung in Clayton (Henry Clay Frick’s Pittsburgh home) but now reside in New York, including Vermeer’s *Girl Interrupted at Her Music* and Barbizon masterworks by Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot and Théodore Rousseau, alongside Frick’s first documented art purchase *Landscape with River* by George Hetzel, in the collection of The Frick Pittsburgh.

The second section, “Increasing Ambition,” traces the development of the collection as Henry Clay Frick worked with some of the most important art dealers of the era, including M. Knoedler & Co. and Charles Carstairs. Coming from New York, Rembrandt’s *Self-Portrait* will comprise the heart of this section, which will also pair the loan of Jean-François Millet’s *Woman Sewing with Lamplight* with an exceptional collection of pastel drawings by the same artist.

“Forming The Frick Collection” demonstrates the breadth and quality of the works acquired in Henry Clay Frick’s final years, including Titian’s *Man in a Red Cap*, as he laid the foundations for the family’s New York residence. From the beginning, their home in New York City was quietly planned to become a museum after his death, serving as a “public gallery to which the entire public shall forever have access.”

The exhibition's final section, "Helen Shapes a Collection," considers some now-iconic works that entered The Frick Collection after Henry's death — works that in some instances anticipate the collection Helen Clay Frick would assemble for The Frick Art Museum in Pittsburgh. This section will be anchored by the New York institution's portrait of Comtesse d'Haussonville by Ingres.

The entire exhibition will showcase more than 60 works of art from the collections of both The Frick Collection and The Frick Pittsburgh.

Programs

Programming for this exhibition will engage with all aspects of the works of art and themes of the exhibition. In-gallery conversations and tours will give visitors the opportunity to explore specific works deeply, and a curators' conversation between Aimee Ng, Ph.D, Curator at The Frick Collection and Dawn R. Brean, Chief Curator and Director of Collections at The Frick Pittsburgh, will discuss this historic exhibition and what's next for both institutions.

Unique programming with partner organizations including West Overton Village in Scottdale, Pa., and Rivers of Steel in Homestead, Pa., will allow participants to journey through Henry Clay Frick's roots in Western Pennsylvania and discover his impact as a leading industrialist.

The Frick will also be hosting a symposium, **Forging a Legacy: Collecting in the Gilded Age**, that will explore the father-daughter collecting dynasty of Henry Clay Frick and Helen Clay Frick in the context of their times.

Families will be welcomed to the exhibition with a special gallery guide created just for them, and a family-friendly sendoff for the exhibition will include art making and music.

Gilded, Not Golden, the new signature tour of Clayton, the 23-room home of Henry Clay Frick and his family at the heart of The Frick Pittsburgh's museum complex, offers an ideal companion experience to the exhibition.

Opportunities to explore key themes of the exhibition will begin on Sunday, October 22, at 2:00 p.m., with a screening of *Close to Vermeer* (2023) in The Frick Art Museum auditorium. This new documentary film goes behind the scenes of the largest Vermeer exhibition ever mounted, presented in early 2023 at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. Register at www.TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

Tickets

Tickets to the exhibition will go on sale to the public in autumn 2023. Members of The Frick Pittsburgh will receive first access; tickets may be reserved at no cost as part of museum membership.

Those interested in learning more about the exhibition and related programs can sign up to receive access to information and tickets at www.TheFrickPittsburgh.org/Special-2024-Exhibition.

About The Frick Collection

Housed in one of New York City's last great Gilded Age homes, for nearly ninety years The Frick Collection has provided visitors with an unparalleled opportunity for intimate encounters with one of the world's foremost collections of fine and decorative arts. The house and collection originated with Henry Clay Frick (1849–1919), who bequeathed his Fifth Avenue home and collection of European paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts for the enjoyment of the public. The institution's holdings, which encompass masterworks from the Renaissance through the early twentieth century, have grown over the decades, doubling in size since the opening of the museum in 1935. Adjacent to the Collection is the Frick Art Reference Library, founded more than one hundred years ago by Henry Clay Frick's daughter Helen Clay Frick and recognized as one of the top resources of its kind in the world.

The historic buildings of The Frick Collection are currently closed for renovation and enhancement, their first comprehensive upgrade since the 1930s. The Frick Collection will reopen in late 2024.

The collections of the museum and library have remained accessible to the public at Frick Madison, the iconic Marcel Breuer–designed building at 945 Madison Avenue that is serving as the Frick's temporary home during its renovation. Following the closure of Frick Madison on March 3, 2024, a selection of masterpieces will travel to Pittsburgh for this unprecedented exhibition in advance of their reinstallation in New York City in late 2024.

About The Frick Pittsburgh

The Frick Pittsburgh offers authentic experiences with art, history and nature that inspire and delight. Visitors of all ages and backgrounds are warmly welcomed to explore collections of fine and decorative arts, vehicles, historic objects, and buildings — including Clayton, the Frick family home and only intact Gilded Age mansion remaining from Pittsburgh's Millionaire's Row — left as a legacy to the people of Pittsburgh by Helen Clay Frick, daughter of noted industrialist and art collector Henry Clay Frick. Alongside these treasures, the Frick offers an active schedule of temporary exhibitions and programs on its 10-acre garden campus in the heart of

Pittsburgh's East End. Information about The Frick Pittsburgh is available online at www.TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

For additional information or images, please contact Kaitlyn Clem, Marketing and Communications Manager, at Media@TheFrickPittsburgh.org or 412-342-4025.

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