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from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

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CONSTABLE'S SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: TWO VERSIONS REUNITED

SEPTEMBER 21 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1999

With this fall presentation, visitors have an opportunity to examine **John Constable's** (1776 - 1837) method of working out changes in composition and atmosphere between two paintings as they observe the subtle differences between a nearly completed, full-scale oil study by the artist and a finished work.

Constable's Salisbury Cathedral: Two Versions Reunited is the next in a series of presentations that pairs together a major loan from another institution with a related work at The Frick Collection.

Juxtaposed will be The Metropolitan Museum of Art's *Salisbury Cathedral from the Bishop's Grounds* (c. 1824-25) and The Frick Collection's *Salisbury Cathedral from the Bishop's Garden* (1826). The paintings will be on view from September 21 through December 31, 1999 in the Library of The Frick Collection and are accompanied by an illustrated brochure written by Associate Curator Susan Grace Galassi. The presentation is supported, in part, by the Fellows of The Frick Collection.

In a sense, the pairing also commemorates the complex relationship between Constable and his "kind monitor for 25 years", his friend and patron Bishop John Fisher. The bishop and his nephew Archdeacon John Fisher were among his most faithful supporters, offering him accommodation for lengthy stays in Salisbury, painting supplies, and a liberal amount of advice. During numerous visits to Salisbury between 1811 and 1829, Constable made drawings and oil sketches of the magnificent thirteenth-century Gothic cathedral from different points of view under varying weather conditions, some of which were developed into finished paintings.

In a group of six paintings dating from 1820 to 1826, he depicted the cathedral from the south side, rising above a green meadow. The bishop asked the painter to develop one of the resulting works, a sketch of

1820, into a finished painting. Instead, Constable set out afresh, producing a canvas that he exhibited to critical acclaim at the Royal Academy in 1823. The bishop, however, was troubled by a storm cloud around the cathedral's spire, and a year later asked Constable for alterations. Working from the outline of the 1823 canvas, Constable completed the commission with the two paintings on view in this presentation. Unfortunately, the bishop, who died in 1825, did not live to see the Frick painting, with its serene sky, completed.

ALSO ON VIEW THIS FALL AT THE FRICK COLLECTION

WATTEAU AND HIS WORLD: FRENCH DRAWING FROM 1700 TO 1750

October 20, 1999, through January 9, 2000

VELÁZQUEZ IN NEW YORK MUSEUMS

November 16, 1999, through January 16, 2000

ABOUT THE FRICK COLLECTION

The Frick Collection features masterpieces of Western art from the early Renaissance through the late nineteenth century. Important works by Bellini, El Greco, Rembrandt, Titian, Turner, Vermeer, Whistler, and many others are 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 French sculpture of the eighteenth century, in addition to 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 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 Phones:

Collection (212) 288-0700

Library (212) 288-8700

Website: www.frick.org

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, January 2, 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 & senior citizens. See updated "Tour Information."

PLEASE NOTE TO YOUR READERS: 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

Tour Information: now included in the price of admission is an Acoustiguide INFORM® Audio Tour of the permanent collection, provided by Acoustiguide. The tour is offered in five languages: English, French, German, Japanese, and Spanish. This fall (date to be announced), a tour in Italian will also be introduced.

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.

18 August 12, 1999

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

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