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from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

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SUSAN GRACE GALASSI ***Promoted to Curator at The Frick Collection***

Samuel Sachs II, Director of The Frick Collection, announced that **Susan Grace Galassi** has been promoted to the position of **Curator**, effective December 1, 2000. A member of the institution's curatorial team for nearly ten years, Ms. Galassi has organized an impressive program of focused scholarly presentations and coordinated many of the Collection's travelling loan exhibitions. She also founded the museum's Education Program, which engages young audiences in the pleasure of looking at art while sharpening their observational and analytical skills, and has taken an active role in the institution's programming for adults and specialized audiences.

Galassi, who held the position of Associate Curator since 1996, and Assistant Curator since 1991, was the last of a long line of junior staff members to have worked with now retired Curator Edgar Munhall and the late Bernice Davidson, Research Curator, an experience which Galassi describes as "life-changing." Before coming to the Collection she taught at Vassar College, Columbia University, and New York University, and was senior lecturer at the Museum of Modern Art, where she also ran the Independent School Program. From these experiences, and her studies in art and visual perception under Professor Rudolf Arnheim in the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University, she brought to the Collection a wealth of insights on art education.

Ms. Galassi received her Ph.D. in art history from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, and holds an M.A. from Wellesley College and a B.A. from Finch College. Her book, *Picasso's Variations on the Masters: Confrontations with the Past*, derived from her dissertation, was published by Abrams in 1996. She has contributed to numerous other publications and exhibition catalogues on Picasso in the U.S. and in Spain, as well as to a variety of publications on The Frick Collection for scholarly and general

audiences. She also has initiated the "Artists, Poets, and Writers" series of lectures, which brings to The Frick Collection well-known practitioners to reflect on its masterpieces or aspects of its history.

Among the intimate, focused presentations organized by Galassi for which The Frick Collection has received particular praise was the 1999 juxtaposition of two sections of a painting by Manet, *The Dead Toreador* and *The Bullfight*. For the first time, these two portions of the original work were examined together in a small exhibition and catalogue, and a related colloquium drew together experts in the field of art history, conservation, and bullfighting for an exchange of ideas. Galassi continues to develop similar projects for the institution, among them a forthcoming presentation of works by El Greco with guest curator Jonathan Brown, and an exhibition for 2003, *Whistler, Women, and Fashion*, which she is co-curating with Margaret MacDonald of the Whistler Study Centre, Glasgow. In the spring of 2001 she will participate in the first full-scale exhibition of Picasso's variations at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid.

Sachs comments, "It is my continuing pleasure to work with Susan Grace Galassi, whose essential contributions to the exhibition and education programming of The Frick Collection have enriched the institution and its offerings to the public and scholarly communities. Over the years, her remarkable achievements at this institution have been matched on a daily basis by her value to us all as a dedicated colleague. Therefore, I join the Board of Trustees and the entire staff in congratulating her on what is truly a heartfelt acknowledgement and a significant advancement."

Colin B. Bailey, Chief Curator adds, "It gives me enormous pleasure to be working with someone of Susan's caliber -- her impressive publications, authoritative studies on Picasso and the Old Masters, and her deep commitment to The Frick Collection and all its activities make her an ideal colleague. It is our joint hope that the curatorial wing of the Collection will flourish in the years to come."

ABOUT THE FRICK COLLECTION

In the elegant galleries of The Frick Collection -- a museum housed in the former mansion of industrialist Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919) -- are some of the most exceptional works of Western art. Ranging from the Renaissance through the late nineteenth century, the Collection includes works by such celebrated artists as Bellini, Constable, Corot, Fragonard, Gainsborough, Goya, El Greco, Holbein, Ingres, Manet, Monet, Rembrandt, Renoir, Titian, Turner, Velázquez, Vermeer, and Whistler. In addition to major paintings by these and other masters, the Frick's galleries contain fine French porcelains, Italian bronzes,

sculptures, and period furniture. The permanent collection is further enriched by frequent presentations of special exhibitions. Inspired by the eye of an individual connoisseur, The Frick Collection has grown over the years. Greeted with awe when the doors opened in 1935, today the Collection is internationally renowned as one of New York's most remarkable cultural treasures. 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. 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, 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 4:45pm, Monday through Friday; 9:30am to 12:45pm 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. An Italian version will be introduced later this year.

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.

34, Friday, December 15, 2000

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

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