



PRESS RELEASE

from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

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THE FRICK COLLECTION ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH GODLA AS CHIEF CONSERVATOR



Joseph Godla, Chief Conservator of The Frick Collection; photo: Michael Bodycomb

The Frick Collection is pleased to announce that **Joseph Godla** has joined the staff as Chief Conservator. He will be in charge of the museum's conservation laboratory and will work in close collaboration with staff of both the Collection and Frick Art Reference Library to oversee the care, maintenance, and preservation of its holdings and the fabric of its buildings. Comments Director Anne L. Poulet, "We are delighted to welcome Joseph to The Frick Collection. We very much look forward to benefiting from his experience with decorative arts and sculpture, areas of great importance to the institution. Indeed, we are actively planning to create a decorative arts department while simultaneously enhancing the holdings in the Library in that field. His fresh analysis and treatment of the Frick's extraordinary collection of furniture and other objects will be a timely and paramount concern for us as these initiatives move forward. Additionally, he will play a critical role as we continue in our efforts to preserve and maintain our beloved 1914 mansion, which is now more than ninety years old."

Joseph Godla served for five years as Senior Conservator of Historic New England (formerly the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities/SPNEA). There, he oversaw the care of the 110,000 objects dating from 1650 to the present that are on view in this celebrated organization's 35 historic house museums and its study collection. Mr. Godla spent the prior decade at The J. Paul Getty Museum as a conservator of European decorative arts and sculpture, where he conducted in-

depth technical analysis of the furniture collection. He also played a leading role in researching, treating, and installing eighteenth-century French period rooms in the new Getty Center. He is an accomplished cabinetmaker, having, for decades, designed and created furniture that has been included in three exhibitions since 1981. In 1999, he traveled to Paris, where he held a three-month-long fellowship in wood carving in the workshop of master carver Vincent Mouchez, while concurrently receiving training in ornament drawing, modeling, and carving at the École Boulle. He received a Master of Arts in Furniture Conservation from Antioch University and a certificate in the field from the Smithsonian Institution Training Program in Washington, D.C.

He succeeds Barbara Roberts, who joined the staff in 2000 and has now returned to independent consulting. In her tenure as the first fulltime, on-site Objects Conservator, she established an up-to-date conservation laboratory within the museum. Roberts was also a key team member in a host of projects through which several seldom seen objects or new acquisitions have been treated and placed on public view—including an important pair of seventeenth-century tapestries; a major bequest of clocks and watches from the estate of Winthrop Edey; the relighting and reorganization of objects in the Enamels Room; and most recently, the coordination with Nobuko Kajitani of the treatment and display of two seventeenth-century Mughal carpets.

Comments Chief Curator Colin B. Bailey, “We are very excited about the appointment of such a distinguished specialist in eighteenth-century furniture, who is also a seasoned museum professional with broad experience in the care and renovation of historic houses. Joseph’s expertise in technical examination and his long-standing commitment to research will doubtless bring new insights into major works in the Collection, and we look forward to a range of collaborative projects devoted to the decorative arts.”

ABOUT THE FRICK COLLECTION

Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919), the coke and steel industrialist, philanthropist, and art collector, left his New York residence and his remarkable collection of Western paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts to the public “for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a gallery of art, [and] of encouraging and developing the study of fine arts and of advancing the general knowledge of kindred subjects.” Designed and built for Mr. Frick in 1913 and 1914 by Thomas Hastings of Carrère and Hastings, the mansion

provides a grand domestic setting reminiscent of the noble houses of Europe for the masterworks from the Renaissance through the nineteenth century that it contains. Of special note are paintings by Bellini, Constable, Corot, Fragonard, Gainsborough, Goya, El Greco, Holbein, Ingres, Manet, Monet, Rembrandt, Renoir, Titian, Turner, Velázquez, Vermeer, Whistler, and other masters. Mr. Frick's superb examples of French eighteenth-century furniture, Italian Renaissance bronzes, and Limoges enamels are celebrated as well. The galleries that contain these works are beloved by the public for their special ambiance, while the interior and exterior gardens and the amenities created since the founder's time in the 1930s and 1970s contribute to the serenity of the visitor's experience. The Collection is renowned for its small, focused exhibitions and for its highly regarded concert series, lectures, and innovative education programs. The Frick also operates the Frick Art Reference Library, founded by Henry Clay Frick's daughter, Miss Helen Clay Frick, located in an adjoining building at 10 East 71st Street. Both a research library and a photo archive, the Frick Art Reference Library is one of the world's great repositories of documents for the study of Western art. It has served the international art world for more than seventy-five years.

BASIC INFORMATION

General Information Phone: (212) 288-0700

Website: www.frick.org

E-mail: info@frick.org

Where: 1 East 70th Street, near Fifth Avenue.

Hours: open six days a week, with recently expanded hours: 10 am to 6 pm on Tuesdays through Thursdays and on Saturdays; 10 am to 9 pm on Fridays; and 1 pm to 6 pm on Sundays. Closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, December 24, and December 25. Limited hours (1 to 6 pm) on Lincoln's Birthday, Election Day, and Veterans Day.

Admission: \$12 for the general public; \$8 for seniors, and \$5 for students

PLEASE NOTE TO YOUR READERS: Children under ten are not admitted to the Collection, and those under sixteen must be accompanied by an adult.

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 INFORM® Audio Tour of the permanent collection, provided by Acoustiguide. The tour is offered in six languages: English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish.

Museum 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, please contact Heidi Rosenau, Manager of Media Relations & Marketing

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