



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRICK ART & HISTORICAL CENTER PRESENTS *ALL THAT GLITTERS: LUXURY IN THE GILDED AGE*

**SPECIAL INSTALLATION AND TOUR OF CLAYTON OFFERED
OCTOBER 23, 2011–JANUARY 15, 2012 HIGHLIGHTS FAMOUS GILDED AGE
MANUFACTURERS OF LUXURY GOODS**

PITTSBURGH, PA, October 5, 2011— To complement the exhibition *Fabergé: The Hodges Family Collection*, the Frick Art & Historical Center is offering a special installation and thematic tour of Clayton, *All That Glitters: Luxury in the Gilded Age*. Artfully using the historic turn-of-the-20th-century home of the Henry Clay Frick Family as an exhibition area, items manufactured by Tiffany; Gorham; Bailey, Banks and Biddle; and others will highlight famous Gilded Age manufacturers of luxury goods, while the tour will incorporate these makers and objects into the larger story of Gilded Age life.

All That Glitters is not a typical Clayton tour. Within the domestic settings of the rooms of the historic house, visitors will find groupings of objects—small boxes, parasols, fans—both to make comparisons between objects and to have a chance to view smaller, not-often-seen artifacts up close. Other items, such as desk accessories and silver serving pieces, illustrate the trend of making objects for everyday use out of precious and luxurious materials, at a time when luxury was an important indicator of social and economic power.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, rapid industrialization and mechanization created a nostalgia for hand-crafted objects, both functional and beautiful, and a concern that artisans and

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their skills would disappear forever. People looking to fill their homes with objects that represented them and reflected a certain lifestyle were drawn to pieces with artistic flair that appeared to be handmade, whether in reality they were or not; the perception of uniqueness and that objects reflect the imagination of the artisan was important. *All That Glitters* highlights objects in Clayton that fall into two important categories—exquisite decorative arts and beautiful, luxurious everyday objects.

Installations in both the dining room and breakfast room examine how changes in dining rituals in the 1880s opened the door for specific serving pieces and tableware that supported and perpetuated elaborate rules of dining etiquette. A growing middle class, lower price of silver, and the widespread use of the technique of silver plating allowed middle class families to begin to own silver tableware that represented growing wealth and status. The dining room table setting represents a traditional Gilded Age formal dinner, while in the breakfast room, groupings of smaller and larger serving pieces let visitors examine a selection of the types of items—tomato servers, jam pots, soup tureens and bon bon spoons—that are typical of the era.

In Henry Clay Frick's bedroom, his silk embroidered smoking jacket, like the smoking accessories in the Fabergé exhibition, illustrates the rising popularity of smoking through the 19th and into the 20th century. In the late 19th century, a smoking jacket was a fashionable wardrobe item for a man, whether he smoked cigarettes or preferred cigars. The jacket was intended to absorb the smell of smoke and protect clothing from falling ash. The jacket and cap in our collection are gorgeously embroidered in a flower motif, with rich brown toggle fasteners.

Another item of clothing that will be a highlight of *All That Glitters* is a floor-length, gold, silk kimono-style robe that belonged to Adelaide Frick. Japanese design and motifs were popular in the late 19th century, and Asian influences can be found on decorative objects and furniture throughout Clayton. Gorgeous in color and sumptuous in fabric, the kimono is embroidered with irises and dyed in a technique that produced deeper color close to the base of the flowers. The iris has a history dating back to Greek mythology and can symbolize, among other things, admiration, wisdom and faith. This popular Gilded Age-era motif can be found on a lovely carved ivory parasol handle and a hand-painted fan that will also be seen on the tour.

Then as now, the name Tiffany and Company stood for elegant, high quality silver. Tiffany seems to have been a favorite stop for the Fricks when in New York. A record of their first purchase from Tiffany dates to 1881, and Tiffany remained a frequent source for their purchases of decorative accessories. *All That Glitters* will include a number of Tiffany items owned by the Fricks, including two traveling toiletry sets, a footed silver vase with an intricate floral and scroll design and an 1894 enameled tea set made for Tiffany by Russian maker A.I. Kuzmichev in Moscow.

As a new tour and a different way of displaying artifacts from our collection, *All That Glitters* is a chance to explore luxurious everyday objects in the domestic setting of Clayton, and is a wonderful experience to pair with a visit to *Fabergé: The Hodges Family Collection*.

ADMISSION

Clayton admission is free for members of the Frick Art & Historical Center. Non-member admission is \$12 for adults; \$10 for seniors, students and the military; and \$6 for children 16 and under. Reservations are strongly recommended, and spots on tours cannot be guaranteed without a prior reservation.

FABERGEATTHEFRICK.ORG

A special website provides information about the exhibition *Fabergé: The Hodges Family Collection* and related museum-wide offerings. Here, visitors can read the behind-the-scenes blog to learn more about the objects, the exhibition, the history of Fabergé, and activities at the Frick. FabergeAtTheFrick.org also provides basic information regarding visiting, programs, scheduling tours, and booking events.

HOURS

Regular Site Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

October 23, 2011–January 15, 2012: Clayton and the site are open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. On Thursdays, the site, including The Café at the Frick, is open until 9 p.m. Dinner seatings are available at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Although reservations are

recommended, walk-ins are welcome, space permitting.

November 24, December 24 and 25, January 1: The entire site is closed.

November 25, 26 and 27: Clayton and the site are open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

GROUP TOURS

Group tours are available during *Fabergé at the Frick*. Combination tours include *Fabergé: The Hodges Family Collection* and *All That Glitters: Luxury in the Gilded Age*. For groups of 12 or fewer, lunch at The Café at the Frick may be arranged, pending availability. Interested parties should inquire with Sylvia Ehler at 412-371-0600, ext. 658, or SEhler@TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

ABOUT THE FRICK ART & HISTORICAL CENTER

The Frick Art & Historical Center is a museum of the Gilded Age located on over five acres of beautifully landscaped gardens in Pittsburgh's East End. Comprising several historic buildings that house its multiple collections, the museum is the legacy of Helen Clay Frick, daughter of Henry Clay Frick, one of America's greatest industrialists and art collectors. Committed to the preservation, presentation and interpretation of fine and decorative arts and historically significant artifacts, the Frick is one of Pittsburgh's most important cultural and educational assets.

The Frick Art Museum houses a collection of Italian Renaissance and 18th-century European art. Special exhibitions are presented on a regular basis, many of which are organized by the Frick's curatorial staff.

Clayton, the restored Frick family home, opened to the public as a fully restored historic house museum in 1990. Over 90% of Clayton's furnishings are original, and a dynamic schedule of public tours of the home is offered year-round.

The Car and Carriage Museum displays vintage automobiles and carriages, presents exhibitions on transportation design, and educates visitors about western Pennsylvania's role in automotive history.

In addition to preserving and presenting its collections, the Frick offers programs that interpret them. A dynamic schedule of public programs illuminating the era during which Pittsburgh became one of the nation's most important cities is offered. The Frick's educational programs serve over 14,000 individuals annually, and 125,000 people visit the museum each year.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Frick Art & Historical Center is located at 7227 Reynolds Street in Pittsburgh's Point Breeze neighborhood. Free parking is available in the Frick's off-street lot or along adjacent streets. For information, the public may call 412-371-0600 or visit the Frick online at TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

For additional information or images, please contact Greg Langel, Media and Marketing Manager, at 412-371-0600 ext. 524 or GLangel@TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

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The Frick Art & Historical Center, a museum, historic site and cultural center, serves the public through preservation, presentation, and interpretation of the fine and decorative arts and historically significant artifacts for all residents of and visitors to Western Pennsylvania.