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The Frick Pittsburgh Announces Its 2027 Season

The season includes three exhibitions, including a Frick-organized show on pearls

PITTSBURGH – The Frick Pittsburgh announced its 2027 season, including an exhibition of watercolor illustrations by an acclaimed Pennsylvania-based storybook author, a groundbreaking exhibition on the women artists of the Abstract Expressionism movement and a multimedia show organized by the Frick on the paradoxical history of the pearl.

Tickets for the three exhibitions will go on sale in November 2026.

IMAGES:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/12xg2mfi2oy9tbxfhjxec/AHn7hF0cHMg7VgUDCS01OBo?rlkey=ak4ysgq3e7w7jq4sa17xo1gsu&st=0pswbuq4&dl=0>

Soul, Sound & Voice: Watercolors by Jerry Pinkney

February 6–May 9, 2027

A visual symphony comes to life in “Soul, Sound & Voice: Watercolors by Jerry Pinkney.” Regarded as one of America’s great illustrators—and a virtuosic watercolor artist—Pinkney (American, 1939-2021) created artworks that updated classic fables and fairy tales, chronicled landmark historic moments, and celebrated the creative power of music.

Over the course of his fifty-year career, Pinkney—who was born and raised in Pennsylvania—illustrated over 100 children’s books, including award-winning titles like “The Lion & the Mouse”

and “The Little Mermaid.” Extending his vision beyond books, Pinkney brought his immense talent to commercial work, creating iconic album covers, posters and magazine illustrations featuring figures like Jimi Hendrix, Stevie Wonder, Ma Rainey and Pittsburgh legend Roy Eldridge. His artworks will take center stage at The Frick Art Museum, honoring his groundbreaking efforts to diversify children’s literature, redefine commercial illustration and inspire future generations.

The exhibition is organized into three sections—Soul, Sound and Voice—and features nearly 100 of his bright and bold watercolors along with rarely seen black and white drawings, illuminating the importance of music in his artistic practice. Revered alongside great watercolorists like Winslow Homer and John Singer Sargent, Pinkney brought an exceptional technique to the accessible popular media, using picture books and commercial art to tell compelling stories for everyone. This welcoming exhibition invites visitors of all ages to explore his legacy and share in the joyful rhythm of his art.

This exhibition is organized by Woodmere and The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. Learn more at thefrickpittsburgh.org/Exhibition-Soul-Sound-Voice-Watercolors-by-Jerry-Pinkney.

Abstract Expressionists: The Women

June 12–September 26, 2027

Expand your interpretation of abstraction with an exhibition of the vital, yet underacknowledged innovation of women artists in the Abstract Expressionism movement. The geometric, rhythmic, colorful and large-scale paintings of “Abstract Expressionists: The Women” invite visitors into a powerful encounter with art that stirs emotion, ignites curiosity and shifts perception.

“Abstract Expressionists: The Women” unites nearly 40 paintings by more than 30 artists between 1936 and 1977, including Elaine de Kooning, Helen Frankenthaler, Grace Hartigan, Joan Mitchell, Howardena Pindell, Alma Thomas and many others. The development of radical and monumental Abstract Expressionist paintings has historically been associated with male creativity.

When Abstract Expressionism entered the art world, it was a shockingly radical approach to painting that upended traditional techniques. Once it was eventually regarded as a “triumph” of American painting, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Willem de Kooning were often credited as some of the great abstract expressionists. The women artists of the movement, however, have been overwhelmingly underappreciated and marginalized in their contributions.

The exhibition challenges the gendered misconceptions of the movement and focuses on the women artists who shaped Abstract Expressionism through innovation and risk-taking, offering a more expansive and inclusive account of the movement’s history.

The Abstract Expressionism movement was at its peak between 1940 and 1980, the same timeframe in which Helen Clay Frick was building The Frick Art Museum and assembling her

collection of early Italian Renaissance devotional paintings and eighteenth-century European art. This once revolutionary art movement is put into conversation with the Frick's fine art collection, offering broader context for both.

"Abstract Expressionists: The Women" is curated by Dr. Ellen G. Landau. This exhibition is organized by the American Federation of Arts from the Christian Levett Collection and FMM (Female Artists of the Mougins Museum), France. It is generously supported by Berry Campbell Gallery, Betsy Shack Barbanell, Monique Schoen Warshaw, Christian Levett, and Clare McKeon and the Clare McKeon Charitable Trust. Additional support has been provided by the Pollock-Krasner Foundation and the Every Page Foundation. Learn more at thefrickpittsburgh.org/Exhibition-Abstract-Expressionists-The-Women.

Paradox of Pearls: Renaissance to the Gilded Age

November 6, 2027–February 27, 2028

Sinful and saintly. Authentic and fake. Regal and exploitive. When it comes to the pearl, two things can be true. "Paradox of Pearls: Renaissance to the Gilded Age" invites visitors to look under the lustrous layers of the sea's most precious and contradictory gem to learn how pearls adorn, empower and perform from the 16th century to today.

This exhibition highlights the pearl as more than a fashion accessory. As one of the most sought-after commodities of the early modern colonial enterprise and a precious jewel tied to bondage and violence, pearls have a complex history that will be unraveled and reframed in this exhibition.

Four thematic sections examine pearls and their varied, often contradictory meanings, through the lens of piety, power, natural properties and performance. The visually rich exhibition features fine and decorative art, including rarely seen artworks from The Frick Pittsburgh's collection and loans from partner institutions including the Carl and Marilyn Thoma Foundation, the Posner Center for Special Collections at Carnegie Mellon University and several private collections. Contemporary art, including work from Gavin Benjamin and Ann Carrington, will be featured throughout the exhibition, disrupting the temporal narrative to draw attention to the enduring legacies of the gem.

"Paradox of Pearls" is a show organized by The Frick Pittsburgh in partnership with Duquesne University professor Laura Engel, Ph.D. Learn more at thefrickpittsburgh.org/Exhibition-Paradox-of-Pearls.

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About The Frick Pittsburgh

Since 1990, The Frick Pittsburgh has welcomed visitors to its 10-acre cultural campus in the heart of Pittsburgh's East End. Gifted to the people of Pittsburgh by Helen Clay Frick, daughter of noted industrialist and art collector Henry Clay Frick, the campus is home to Clayton, the family's Gilded Age mansion, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The *Gilded*,

Not Golden tour of Clayton was honored with a 2024 Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History.

The campus also includes The Frick Art Museum, the Car and Carriage Museum, a greenhouse, gardens, and welcoming café. Through its permanent collections, traveling exhibitions, historic tours, and public programs, the Frick invites all visitors to experience history and art, reframed for today. Discover more about The Frick Pittsburgh at TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

About The American Federation of Arts

The American Federation of Arts is the leader in traveling exhibitions internationally. A nonprofit organization founded in 1909, the AFA is dedicated to enriching the public's experience and understanding of the visual arts through organizing and touring art exhibitions for presentation in museums around the world, publishing exhibition catalogues featuring important scholarly research, and developing educational programs.

For additional information or images, please contact Stephanie Mirah, Marketing and Communications Manager, or Kristin Garbarino, Director of Marketing and Communications, at Media@TheFrickPittsburgh.org.