



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

THE FRICK PITTSBURGH PRESENTS **BOUKE DE VRIES: WAR AND PIECES**

New installation on view at The Frick Art Museum beginning August 15

PITTSBURGH, PA, August 11, 2020 – This summer, The Frick Pittsburgh is pleased to present Dutch contemporary artist Bouke de Vries’ remarkable *War and Pieces*, a sprawling tablescape assembled from thousands of porcelain shards and inspired by the lavish centerpieces adorning banquet tables during the 17th and 18th centuries. Composed of seven sculptural vignettes, *War and Pieces* depicts the folly of war in the form of a 24-foot nuclear wasteland, where figures clash among a heap of porcelain ruins. Called a “masterwork” by art critics, *War and Pieces* will be on display at the Frick beginning August 15, and will remain on view through January 24, 2021. Admission to view this installation in the permanent collection galleries is free. Frick members and essential workers will have special access from August 15 – 22. Non-members and the general public are welcomed beginning August 23. Timed tickets are required and may be reserved at TheFrickPittsburgh.org beginning August 12.

During the 1700s, European aristocrats adorned their banquet tables with intricate and sophisticated figural centerpieces. Displayed during the dessert course, these elaborate sculptures, known as *surtout de table*, were formed first from sugar – a rare and prized commodity at the time and a symbol of the wealth and status of the host. European porcelain manufacturers later began producing more enduring versions of these sugar figurines. *War and Pieces* references this fascinating sculptural tradition by turning it on its head, staging a battle on the table—a far less harmful scale.

Born in Utrecht, The Netherlands, de Vries initially began his career in the fashion industry before switching paths to conservation and restoration. His artistic pursuits developed directly from the skills he learned as a conservator; the artist resurrects broken and discarded objects to create new and meaningful works. De Vries employs a Japanese technique called *kintsugi*, which he acknowledges as “celebrating damage as part of an object’s history rather than trying to hide it; enhancing the beauty of the damage” to piece together his sculptures. *War and Pieces* is organized by The Frick Pittsburgh. The North American tour is coordinated by Ferrin Contemporary.

SPECIAL HOURS OF OPERATION AND VISITOR SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Operating on a revised schedule, The Frick Art Museum and Car and Carriage Museum will be open to visitors Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., while the Frick grounds will be open to enjoy Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. – dusk.

Per Governor Tom Wolf’s July 3 mandate, the Frick asks that all visitors please wear a face covering and maintain social distancing for the duration of their visit. The Frick has implemented a range of new safety precautions on campus, which include enhanced cleaning procedures, installation of Plexiglass barriers at The Frick Art Museum admission desk and Grable Visitor Center customer service counters, and provision of hand sanitizer across campus.

Spaces where social distancing is impossible to maintain will remain closed, including Clayton, the Greenhouse, and The Café at the Frick.

Detailed information regarding the Frick’s COVID-19-related safety guidelines for visitors is available at TheFrickPittsburgh.org/covid-19.

ABOUT THE FRICK PITTSBURGH

Located on the Pittsburgh estate of late-19th-century industrialist Henry Clay Frick, The Frick Pittsburgh is the steward of collections left as a legacy to the people of Pittsburgh by Frick’s daughter, Helen Clay Frick. The permanent collections include fine and decorative arts, cars, carriages, historic objects, and buildings. The Frick experience includes The Frick Art Museum, the Car and Carriage Museum, Clayton, the Frick family Gilded Age mansion, and six acres of beautifully landscaped lawns and gardens. Also included are

an Education Center, the Frick children's playhouse (designed by renowned architects Alden & Harlow), a large working greenhouse (also designed by Alden & Harlow), The Café at the Frick, and the Grable Visitor Center, which houses the Frick Museum Store.

The public may experience The Frick Pittsburgh's collections and museum spaces, hear lectures, and participate in programs remotely by visiting the virtual museum at TheFrickPittsburgh.org/virtual.

Information about The Frick Pittsburgh is available online at TheFrickPittsburgh.org, or by telephone at 412-371-0600.

For additional information or images, please contact Kaitlyn Clem, Marketing and Communications Associate, at KClem@TheFrickPittsburgh.org or 412-342-4025.

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