

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



The Deposition

Gerard David (Netherlandish, ca. 1460–1523)

Date ca. 1495–1500

Medium Oil on canvas

Dimensions 56 1/8 x 44 1/4 in. (142.6 x 112.4 cm)

Credit Line Henry Clay Frick Bequest

Accession Number 1915.1.33

Currently On View

Second Floor, Room 33, Sitting Room

Commentary The somber dignity of the mourning figures and the austere simplicity of this composition greatly impressed David's contemporaries, who produced a number of copies and variants of *The Deposition*. The work is among the earliest extant Northern European paintings executed in oil on canvas, rather than on panel; a water-based paint such as tempera is more commonly found in Flemish works on fabric supports at this period. In *The Deposition* the oil medium brings out the subtle ranges of the cold but vibrant hues and the nuances of the finely rendered details — seen, for example, in the skull and bones hauntingly prominent in the foreground. Source: *Art in The Frick Collection: Paintings, Sculpture, Decorative Arts*, New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1996.

Collection History Nieuwenhuys. The Dutch Royal Collection, where it was ascribed to Mabuse. Willem II, King of the Netherlands, sale, August 12, 1850, The Hague, Lot 35, sold for 2,250 florins to de Vries, apparently for Dingwall, Virginia Water, Surrey. J. Dingwall, Tittenhurst, Sunninghill, Berkshire. Thomas Holloway, acquired apparently with the estate of Tittenhurst. Bequeathed by him to his sister-in-law, Miss Mary Ann Driver (Lady Martin-Holloway). Bought in 1912 from the trustees of Miss Driver's estate by Colnaghi and Obach. Knoedler. Frick, 1915. Source: *Paintings in The Frick Collection: American, British, Dutch, Flemish and German. Volume I*. New York: The Frick Collection, 1968.