

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



The Rehearsal

Edgar Degas (French, 1834–1917)

Date 1878–79

Medium Oil on canvas

Dimensions 18 3/4 x 24 in. (47.6 x 61 cm)

Credit Line Henry Clay Frick Bequest

Accession Number 1914.1.34

Currently On View

Second Floor, Room 24, Impressionist Room

Commentary This painting is probably the canvas entitled *École de danse* that Degas entered in the fourth exhibition of the Impressionists in 1879. It then belonged to the artist's close friend Henri Rouart, and it was sold after Rouart's death in 1912 along with a number of other important works by Degas. Mr. Frick was the next private individual to own it, acquiring the painting a year and a half later. *The Rehearsal* is one of many compositions devoted to the dance that the artist produced in the 1870s, apparently fascinated with the mechanization of the human body that the rigorous discipline of the ballet imposed. In the same exhibition of 1879 Degas showed two other pictures of dancers practicing with a violinist. In all of them the unidentified musician appears divorced from the events surrounding him, his age and stolid form providing a touching contrast to the doll-like ballerinas. Source: *Art in The Frick Collection: Paintings, Sculpture, Decorative Arts*, New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1996.

Collection History Henri Rouart. His sale, December 9–11, 1912, Galerie Manzi, Paris, Lot 176, as *Répétition de danse*, sold for 165,000 francs to Knoedler. Frick, 1914. Source: *Paintings in The Frick Collection: French, Italian and Spanish. Volume II*. New York: The Frick Collection, 1968.