

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Portrait of a Woman

Frans Hals (Dutch, ca. 1581–1666)

Date 1635

Medium Oil on canvas

Dimensions 45 7/8 x 36 3/4 in. (116.5 x 93.3 cm)

Credit Line Henry Clay Frick Bequest

Accession Number 1910.1.72

Currently On View

First Floor, Room 13, West Gallery

Commentary An inscription at upper left gives the age of the unidentified sitter as fifty-six. Soberly but richly dressed in black silk, with a brocaded bodice, the ruddy-cheeked lady, holding a Bible or prayerbook, appears well-established in a comfortable existence. Her solid, rounded form and four-square setting enhance the sense of a life led in a secure position within her society. The portrait records her features with objectivity and with a blunt, vigorous brushwork that seems in itself to reflect her character. Like most of Hals' works, this one employs a plain, unadorned background perfectly suited to his style of portraiture. Various suggestions have been made for a male companion to the portrait, but no agreement has been reached. Source: *Art in The Frick Collection: Paintings, Sculpture, Decorative Arts*, New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1996.

Collection History J. Bernard. His sale, November 24, 1834, Amsterdam, Lot 46, sold to de Vries. D.P. Sellar, London. His sale, June 6, 1889, Paris, Galerie Georges Petit, Lot 36. Charles Schiff, Paris. Sold by Schiff in 1893 to C.T. Yerkes, Chicago. His sale, April 7, 1910, New York, American Art Association, Lot 119. Knoedler. Frick, 1910. Source: *Paintings in The Frick Collection: American, British, Dutch, Flemish and German. Volume I*. New York: The Frick Collection, 1968.