

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Arrangement in Brown and Black: Portrait of Miss Rosa Corder

James McNeill Whistler (American, 1834–1903)

Date 1876–78

Medium Oil on canvas

Dimensions 75 3/4 × 36 3/8 in. (192.4 × 92.4 cm)

Credit Line Henry Clay Frick Bequest

Accession Number 1914.1.134

Currently On View

First Floor, Room 15, Oval Room

Commentary Rosa Corder was a painter and the mistress of Whistler's unofficial agent, Charles Howell. It is said that Whistler observed her in Chelsea one day wearing a brown dress and passing before a black door and, struck by the color effect, used it as the basis for this portrait. Miss Corder later reported that she had posed for the picture some forty times. An acquaintance remembered her as a person of "a beautiful stillness." Source: The Frick Collection, Handbook of Paintings, New York: The Frick Collection in association with Scala Publishers, 2004.

Collection History C.A. Howell, bought from the artist for 100 guineas. His sale, November 15, 1890, Christie's, Lot 545, sold for £241 10s to W. Graham Robertson. Sold by him, late in 1902, for £2,000 to R.A. Canfield. Knoedler. Frick, 1914. Source: Paintings in The Frick Collection: American, British, Dutch, Flemish and German. Volume I. New York: The Frick Collection, 1968.