

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



The Bullfight

Édouard Manet (French, 1832–1883)

Date 1864

Medium Oil on canvas

Dimensions 18 7/8 x 42 7/8 in. (47.9 x 108.9 cm)

Credit Line Henry Clay Frick Bequest

Accession Number 1914.1.86

Currently On View

Second Floor, Room 24, Impressionist Room

Commentary In 1864 Manet exhibited at the Salon a painting entitled *An Incident in the Bullring*. The work was savagely caricatured and criticized, one writer describing its subject as “a toreador of wood killed by a horned rat.” After the picture was returned from the Salon, Manet cut out two separate compositions from the canvas, possibly because he accepted the criticism as justified. The lower, larger section, now known as *The Dead Toreador*, is in the National Gallery, Washington. Both sections of the original canvas were subsequently reworked by the artist, the head of the bull being added to the Frick segment after the painting had been divided. Unlike some of his American contemporaries, Mr. Frick showed little interest in the Impressionists. His acquisitions in this area were limited to this work by Manet, the paintings by Renoir and Degas, and two landscapes by Monet, one of which he sold back. The other — *Banks of the Seine, Lavacourt* — as always remained in his Pittsburgh residence. Source: *Art in The Frick Collection: Paintings, Sculpture, Decorative Arts*, New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1996.

Collection History Baron Vitta, Paris. J.H. Dunn, London. Knoedler. Frick, 1914. Source: *Paintings in The Frick Collection: French, Italian and Spanish. Volume II*. New York: The Frick Collection, 1968.