

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



The Wool Winder

Jean-Baptiste Greuze (French, 1725–1805)

Date ca. 1759

Medium Oil on canvas

Dimensions 29 3/8 × 24 1/8 in. (74.6 × 61.3 cm)

Credit Line Purchased by The Frick Collection, 1943

Accession Number 1943.1.148

Currently On View

First Floor, Room 16, East Gallery

Commentary Like much of Greuze's early work, *The Wool Winder* owes something to Chardin's genre pictures of the 1730s, which in turn recall the Dutch seventeenth-century genre scenes the French were collecting avidly in the early eighteenth century. But Greuze's pictures are usually, as here, more whimsical and anecdotal, as well as more refined in execution. The letter B carved into the top rail of the chair suggests that the subject may have been a younger sister of the artist's wife, Anne-Gabrielle Babuti, whom he married in January of 1759. *The Wool Winder*, exhibited the same year, is related to a series of portraits of his new family that Greuze exhibited in 1759 and 1761 — likenesses of his wife, of her brother, and of her father, in addition to one of himself. Source: *Art in The Frick Collection: Paintings, Sculpture, Decorative Arts*, New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1996.

Collection History Marquis de Bandol, bought in 1759. La Live de Jully sale, March 5, 1770, Paris, Lot 114, sold for 950 francs to Catelin. Duc de Choiseul sale, April 6, 1772, Paris, Lot 134, sold for 1,600 francs. Madame la Présidente de Bandeville sale, December 3–10, 1787, Paris, Lot 67, sold for 2,505 livres to Desmarets. Maréchal de Ségur sale, April 9, 1793, Paris, Lot 111, sold for 1,280 livres. Jacques-Joseph de Boussairolles from Abraham Fontanel on 21 May 1805, and sold by his grandson, Charles de Boussairolles, before 1850 to the Duc de Morny. Duc de Morny sale, May 31–June 3, 1865, Paris, Lot 100, sold for 91,500 francs. Duchesse de Sesto sale, June 25, 1894, Paris, sold for 60,000 francs to Montaignac and Sedelmeyer. The Marquess of Hertford. Sir Richard Wallace. Wertheimer. A. Walter, Bearwood (1898). J. Pierpont Morgan. Knoedler. Frick, 1943. Source: *Paintings in The Frick Collection: French, Italian and Spanish. Volume II*. New York: The Frick Collection, 1968.