

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Cologne, the Arrival of a Packet-Boat: Evening

Joseph Mallord William Turner (British, 1775–1851)

Date 1826

Medium Oil on canvas

Dimensions 66 3/8 x 88 1/4 in. (168.6 x 224.2 cm)

Credit Line Henry Clay Frick Bequest

Accession Number 1914.1.119

Currently On View

First Floor, Room 13, West Gallery

Commentary A year after presenting *Dieppe* at the Royal Academy, Turner exhibited *Cologne*. A former Roman colony and a free imperial city during the Holy Roman Empire, Cologne had long been a major commercial, educational, and religious center. Situated on the banks of the Rhine, Cologne was still largely medieval in appearance when Turner visited. Only a small section of the city is visible in his painting: the tower and spire of the church of Gross St. Martin piercing the evening sky, with defensive towers, walls, and the customs house leading up to it. The laboring women in peasant dress and the abandoned fishing contraption contribute to a sense of time standing still. The ferry boat carrying female tourists to shore is about to break the spell. One critic noted that “it is impossible to shut our eyes to the wonderful skill, and to the lightness and brilliancy which he [Turner] has effected.”

Collection History Broadhurst (?). James Wadmore. His sale, May 5–6, 1854, Christie’s, Lot 184, sold for 2,000 guineas to Grundy, probably for John Naylor, Leighton Hall, Welshpool, Montgomeryshire. Mrs. Naylor. Bought from her, together with *Dieppe* by Agnew and Sulley, through Dyer and Sons, for a total of £42,000. Knoedler. Frick, 1914. Source: *Paintings in The Frick Collection: American, British, Dutch, Flemish and German. Volume I*. New York: The Frick Collection, 1968.