

# The Frick Collection: Detail Report

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## Lady Anne Carey, Later Viscountess Claneboye and Countess of Clanbrassil

Anthony van Dyck (Flemish, 1599–1641)

**Date** ca. 1636

**Medium** Oil on canvas

**Dimensions** 83 1/2 x 50 1/4 in. (212.1 x 127.6 cm)

**Credit Line** Henry Clay Frick Bequest

**Accession Number** 1917.1.37

Currently On View

First Floor, Room 16, East Gallery

**Commentary** Anne Carey, later Countess of Clanbrassil, was the daughter of Henry Carey, second Earl of Monmouth, and Martha Cranfield. According to a family history, the Countess of Clanbrassil was a “very handsome and witty” woman who was “extraordinary in knowledge, virtue, and piety.” This portrait was likely painted on the occasion of her engagement to James Hamilton, heir of a Scottish family that had received large land grants in Northern Ireland. Lady Anne strides to the left in an Arcadian landscape, with the boulder behind her framing a woodland vista. Van Dyck reused this backdrop in other portraits, catering to the taste of English aristocrats who sought refuge from an increasingly unstable political situation in pastoral fantasies.

**Collection History** Said to have belonged to the Duke of Buckingham. Lord Torrington. His sale (anonymous), January 24, 1778, Christie’s, Lot 172, sold for £58 16s to the sixth Earl of Denbigh. Earls of Denbigh, Newnham Paddox, Warwickshire. Frick, 1917. Source: *Paintings in The Frick Collection: American, British, Dutch, Flemish and German. Volume I.* New York: The Frick Collection, 1968.