

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Miss Mary Edwards

William Hogarth (British, 1697–1764)

Date 1742

Medium Oil on canvas

Dimensions 49 3/4 × 39 7/8 in. (126.4 × 101.3 cm)

Credit Line Henry Clay Frick Bequest

Accession Number 1914.1.75

Currently On View

First Floor, Room 16, East Gallery

Commentary Mary Edwards (1705–43), one of the richest women of her time, repudiated her marriage to an extravagant husband, although this was tantamount to declaring her son illegitimate. She was Hogarth's friend and arguably his most significant patron during the decade 1733–43. The monumental portrait of Miss Edwards, wearing magnificent jewels and a striking red dress, is a masterpiece in the series of Hogarth's commanding middle-class portraits, which includes the famous Captain Coram. The open scroll prominently displayed beside the subject champions the virtues of liberty and property that she would have appreciated as manager of a great fortune. Source: *Art in The Frick Collection: Paintings, Sculpture, Decorative Arts*, New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1996.

Collection History By family descent to W.F.N. Noel. Knoedler. Frick, 1914. Source: *Paintings in The Frick Collection: American, British, Dutch, Flemish and German. Volume I*. New York: The Frick Collection, 1968.