

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Pendant Watch

C. De Lespée (French, act. 1620)

Date ca. 1620

Medium Gold, rock crystal, and enamel

Dimensions 2 5/8 x 1 9/16 x 1 1/16 in. (6.6 x 3.9 x 2.8 cm)

Credit Line Bequest of Winthrop Kellogg Edey, 1999

Accession Number 1999.6.18

Currently On View

Second Floor, Room 23, Clocks and Watches Room

Commentary By about 1580, the drums of the first portable timekeepers had evolved into more convenient pendant watches that could be worn on a chain suspended around the neck. However, they were unreliable and valued primarily as luxury items until 1675, when the balance spring was introduced. With its rock crystal case and cloisonné enamel decoration, this early French watch is especially rare. Nothing is known of C. de Lespée, whose name appears on the movement. Source: Vignon, Charlotte. *The Frick Collection Decorative Arts Handbook*. New York: The Frick Collection/Scala, 2015.