

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Oval Medallion, Apollo and the Muses

Suzanne de Court (French, act. ca. 1600)

Date ca. 1600

Medium Limoges; enamel on copper, parcel-gilt

Dimensions 4 1/4 × 3 1/2 in. (10.8 × 8.9 cm)

Credit Line Gift of Alexis Gregory, 2021

Accession Number 2021.4.13

Currently On View

First Floor, Room 14, Enamels Room

Commentary This composition representing Apollo and the Muses on Mount Helicon derives from a print by Giorgio Ghisi (1520–1582) that was made after a drawing by Luca Penni (1500 or 1504–1557). Flanked by a putto and Pegasus, Apollo is playing his lyre on deep green grass. Two bearded men wearing laurel wreaths, perhaps poets, are gesturing in his direction. Seated at their feet are the Muses: Erato, the Muse of lyric poetry; Calliope, of epic poetry; Thalia, of comedy and pastoral poetry; Urania, of astronomy; Terpsichore, of dance; Melpomene, of tragedy; Euterpe, of music; Clio, of history; and Polyhymnia, of sacred poetry. The group is separated by a river into which the nymph Castalia pours water from a vase.

Collection History Baron Albert von Goldschmidt- Rothschild (1879–1941), Frankfurt; sale, Hermann Ball and Paul Graupe, Berlin, March 14, 1933 (lot 67); sale, Sotheby's, London, April 21, 1988 (lot 362); private collection, Kapellen, Belgium, until 1995; Jan Dirven Gallery, Antwerp; purchased by Alexis Gregory, 2001; Gift to The Frick Collection, 2021