

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Sword Hilt

Johann Michael Maucher (German, 1645–1701)

Date ca. 1700

Medium Ivory

Dimensions 6 1/4 × 6 1/8 × 2 1/2 in. (15.9 × 15.6 × 6.4 cm)

Credit Line Gift of Alexis Gregory, 2021

Accession Number 2021.18.01

Currently On View

First Floor, Room 14, Enamels Room

Commentary This hilt is described in an eighteenth-century inventory as an "ivory hunting knife, artistically made." The knife was likely created to be displayed in a *Kunstkammer* (cabinet of curiosities). The intricately carved scene depicts a hunt, with interlocking horses, dogs, bears, elk, wild boars, rams, antelope, and foxes. Ivory in Europe came primarily from African elephants, as the pale color and workability of their tusks were highly favored.

Collection History Augusta Sibylla, Margravine of Baden-Baden née Saxe-Lauenburg (1675–1733); by descent to her line until extinction of the Baden-Baden line in 1771; bequeathed to Empress Maria Theresa (1717–1780); sale of the collections of Augusta Sibylla, Margravine of Baden-Baden, Offenburg, May 8, 1775 (lot 217); Karl Friedrich of Baden-Durlach (1728–1811), Baden-Baden; by descent to Grand Duke Friedrich I of Baden (1826–1907), 1883/91 by descent to his son Grand Duke Friedrich II of Baden (1857–1928) until his abdication in 1918, Baden-Baden; Neues Schloss, Baden-Baden; sale of the collection of the Margraves of Baden, Baden-Baden, Sotheby's, October 5–21, 1995 (lot 306); purchased by Alexis Gregory, New York, 1995; Gift to The Frick Collection, 2021