



Explore *The Swing* (c. 1767–8) by Jean-Honoré Fragonard with innovative digital tools

The Wallace Collection shares the results of an extensive research and conservation project on the world-famous Fragonard painting through a newly launched free digital platform.

Les hasards heureux de l'escarpolette (The Swing) (c. 1767–8) by Jean-Honoré Fragonard (1732–1806) is an iconic Rococo painting and one of the Wallace Collection's most famous works of art. It has been the subject of an extensive research and conservation project undertaken by the museum, and the extraordinary results are now available to view on an innovative digital platform.

Celebrated for centuries for its delicate and skilful brushwork as much as for its controversial subject matter, *The Swing* continues to attract thousands of visitors from across the world each year. The continued interest in *The Swing* has manifested itself in countless references in literature, contemporary art, design and cinema. Despite its international fame, the genesis of the painting remains elusive.

In autumn 2021, the Wallace Collection undertook an intricate and highly skilled conservation project to reveal the mysteries surrounding *The Swing*, Fragonard and his artistic process. Executed by Martin Wyld, former Head of Conservation at the National Gallery, the project, which involved

the removal of a layer of yellow varnish, has transformed the painting, enriching Fragonard's composition with freshly restored colours and detailing. Following its conservation, the painting was reinstalled alongside the museum's seven other works by Fragonard, one of the most important publicly-held groupings of paintings by the artist in Europe, outside France.

The findings of the project can be explored in a new interactive website dedicated to Fragonard's masterpiece. This open-access platform allows users to further their understanding of the painting through articles written by renowned experts on fashion, art and history. Through a variety of engaging written, audio and video content, the site reveals *The Swing's* fascinating history, from its intriguing commission to its lasting impact on art and fashion. The site concludes with an overview of the conservation process the painting underwent, which offers users an opportunity to witness the extraordinary transformation using an image slider. This content is also complemented by a soundscape specially produced by Chris Watson, one of the world's leading wildlife recordists, in response to the painting. The Wallace Collection now aims to share the results of its investigations with as wide an audience as possible in an innovative and engaging way, as well as offer new perspectives on the painting.

To celebrate the launch of *The Swing* site, the Wallace Collection has partnered with crystal artist Sara Shakeel to produce a 'sparkling' version of *The Swing*. View this on the site and our social media channels.

Funds for the conservation of *The Swing* were generously provided to the Wallace Collection by the Bank of America Art Conservation Project.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

[THE SWING SITE CAN BE ACCESSED HERE](#)

[HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES FOR DOWNLOAD CAN BE ACCESSED HERE](#)

About the Wallace Collection

As one of Britain's preeminent cultural institutions, the Wallace Collection is home to one of the most significant ensembles of fine and decorative arts in the world. Highlights include oil paintings from the fourteenth to the late nineteenth centuries by artists such as Titian, Velazquez, Rubens and Van Dyck; princely arms and armour; and one of the finest collections of eighteenth-century French paintings and decorative arts. Visitors can also enjoy superb medieval and Renaissance objects, including Limoges enamel, maiolica, glass and bronzes. Displayed at Hertford House, former home to Sir Richard and Lady Wallace, this outstanding collection is displayed in a manner designed to evoke the lives and tastes of its founders, creating a special ambiance that remains an essential part of its charm.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION AND INTERVIEWS

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