

Mary Griggs Burke



Mary Griggs Burke in her mini-museum in her Manhattan apartment.
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- 1916 Born and raised in Saint Paul, Minnesota, the daughter of Theodore W. Griggs and the former Mary Steele Livingston, both heirs to family businesses in railroads, banking, lumber, and other ventures
- 1938 Graduates from Sarah Lawrence College, Westchester County, New York
- 1942 Receives a master's degree in clinical psychology from Columbia University, New York
- 1954 At the urging of the architect Walter Gropius, travels to Japan, the first of more than thirty trips there; commissions a house on Centre Island in Oyster Bay, Long Island, inspired by Japanese architecture and gardens
- 1955 Marries Jackson Burke, a type designer and printer; the Burkes have homes in New York; Hobe Sound, Florida; and Cable, Wisconsin
- 1956 Purchases an eighteenth-century *Tale of Genji* screen at auction in New York
- 1963 The Burkes begin to seriously collect Japanese art when they acquire the Frank E. Hart Collection of more than seventy ukiyo-e paintings in Palm Beach, Florida
- 1965 Begins taking courses on Japanese art at Columbia University with Professor Miyeko Murase, who subsequently becomes her primary art advisor
- 1966 The Burkes commission sculptor and designer Yasuhide Kobashi to create a Japanese-style "mini-museum" in their Upper East Side Manhattan apartment; the Mary Livingston Griggs and Mary Griggs Burke Foundation is established, making grants to educational, nature conservation, and arts-related programs
- 1972 The Mary and Jackson Burke Foundation is established to collect and display East Asian art to the public
- 1973 Andrew J. Pekarik is hired as the first curator of the Mary Griggs Burke Collection, serving until 1984; he is succeeded by Gratia Williams Nakahashi and Stephanie Wada
- 1975 Jackson Burke dies; the first exhibition of the Burke Collection is held at the Met
- 1975 Becomes a Trustee of the Met, serving until 1995, when she becomes Trustee Emerita
- 1979 Yasuhide Kobashi is commissioned to expand the mini-museum to include a room for the display of sculpture and another for tea ceremonies
- 1985 The Burke Collection becomes the first Western collection of Japanese art to be shown at the Tokyo National Museum
- 1987 Awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Second Level Gold and Silver Star, by the government of Japan
- 1990 An exhibition of the Burke Collection is presented in Frankfurt, Germany
- 1993 "Jewel Rivers: Japanese Art from The Burke Collection" is exhibited in Richmond, Virginia; Santa Barbara, California; and Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2000 The major exhibition "Bridge of Dreams: The Mary Griggs Burke Collection of Japanese Art" is held at the Met
- 2005-6 The second exhibition of the Burke Collection is held in Japan
- 2012 Dies in New York on December 8 at the age of ninety-six
- 2014 The catalogue raisonné *Art through a Lifetime: The Mary Griggs Burke Collection* is published
- 2015 The Mary and Jackson Burke Foundation announces the donation of more than one thousand works of East Asian art to four museums, including the Met, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Yale University Art Gallery, and Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach, Florida