**OLLI at Duke Fall 2023. Kris Door, PhD website: kristinedoor.com.**

Museum & Zoom Lectures: Wednesdays, 11:00-12:30

**Art from the Dutch Golden Age, Trade and Colonialism**

**October 18 & 19 Gallery sessions**

**Still Life. See new video on website re: Aertsen**

1. **Pieter Aertsen (1508-1575), *A Meat Stall with the* *Holy Family Giving Alms*, 1551, Oil**

**on panel. Amsterdam to Antwerp.** The first thing we do to learn about a work of art in the Museum is look at the label. What does it tell you? When did the Museum purchase this painting? (Read website article: Decoding Museum Label) **NCMA 1993**

* Next, make an inventory of what you see. This is a busy complex painting! But see if you can describe what you see, from background to foreground, from left to right.
* The small sign in the upper right corner reads in Dutch: “Land for sale out back: 154 rods, either by the piece or all at once.” FYI: 1 Square rod = 0.0063 Acres
* Do you have an idea what simple moral message might be conveyed in this image?

(Read website article: Aertsen, *Meat Stall.*)

* Anyone who wanted to buy meat in Antwerp had to buy it from the Vleeshuis, or “Meat Hall,” from one of 62 guild butchers, who traditionally wore red jackets. Can you find a butcher in the painting. In 1551 the guild was under attack for being a monopoly.
* There was also a notorious real estate deal that had taken place that year that took land from a convent by eminent domain and gave it to a shady real estate developer.
* We do not understand the full political message in this painting, but it was a popular image. The NCMA painting is the original first painting and it was copied three times, that we know of.
* Provenance: history of the painting. David Steel, former NCMA curator saw one example of this painting in auction, research took him to Europe to see three other examples, the most famous in Uppsala Sweden. Then, a fourth example came up for auction in London. After a close examination, it appeared to be the prime painting and the painting was purchased. Since then, it has been studied by scholars and hailed as the most important work in the transition to independent still life in Northern Painting.
* Van der Ast in Exhibition should be here. . . find it in special ex
1. **Jan den Uyl (1595/96-1640), *Banquet Piece*, c. 1635, Oil on cradled panel**
* \*When did the Museum acquire this painting? How many years after Aertsen’s *Meat Stall* did Den Uyl paint this still life? 1952. 80 years later
* Haarlem school of Pieter Claesz and Willem Heda (same decade as works in ex) but Den Uyl in Amsterdam. Died at about 45
* Make an inventory of what you see. Left to right: A lute upside down with broken string, a tipped over pewter jug, a green Roemer, a stemmed flute, silver tazza and gilded pokal, two pewter plates, silver knife, lemon peel, mustard pot on its side, candlestick, and wick scissors, half glass of beer, more plates with food. Half-eaten meal of oysters, olives, mincemeat pie, wine and beer on a white linen cloth
* How has Den Uyl created illusions of realism? Depth? Reflection? Textures?
* Foreshortening, overlapping Glass, silver pewter, gold. Are the surfaces of reflection wax candle, lemon peel, linen.
* To see a real, *pokal*,tall German drinking vessel, find the Kunstkamer in the Flemish Gallery.
* Can you find where Den Uyl "signed" his painting?
* Rubens owned 3 of his paintings. this could be one of them. What did Rubens like?

about his paintings (discuss glazing) Rembrandt also owned one painting.

* What is the iconography (meaning)? There was a clash of enjoying beautiful things and the Calvinist culture of humility. The turned over lute and the extinguished candle could be symbols of the transitory nature of life. A call for moderation.

(Read Curator’s last sentence on the label)

**Landscape**

1. **Jan Brueghel the Elder (1568-1625), *Harbor Scene with St. Paul’s Departure from Caesarea*, 1596, Oil on copper.**
* When did the Museum acquire this painting?
* Brueghel lived from the last quarter of the 16th to the end of first quarter of the 17th century—transition. Second half of his work living in Antwerp same time as Rubens—and worked for him.
* Make note of what you see in the painting. Can you find St Paul? How important is he to the scene? What seems to be important to the scene?
* Painted on copper, keeps color bright and long lasting.
1. **Esaias van den Velde (1587-1630), *Winter Scene*, 1614, Oil on cradled panel.**
* When did the Museum acquire this painting? How many years after the Brueghel did Van den Velde paint *Winter Scene*? 18 years later
* He was born in Amsterdam in 1586 or 87, the son of a Protestant painter who fled Antwerp to Amsterdam.
* How would you compare the importance of human activity in the two paintings?
* What describes the season in this landscape?
* Can you see where more sky was added to the painting later?
* In the exhibition there is Van den Velde 1614 party/genre scene
1. **Jacob van Ruisdael (1628/29-1682), *Wooded Landscape with Waterfall*, c. 1665- 70, Oil on canvas**.
* When did the Museum acquire this painting? 1952
* Describe the scene? What do you see? How many people do you see?
* Mountains? In Holland? Dutch/German boarder—remember this is artificial.
* A Baroque (17th century) composition often uses diagonals to create the illusion of movement. Can you find diagonals in this composition? Verticals?
* Can you tell what season it is?
* How important are the people in this painting compared with the previous two landscapes?
* Jacob van Ruisdael's landscapes represent the mature late style of 17th- century Dutch landscape painting, often called, “the Classic period.”
* Some have read in this painting an allegory of the fleeting nature of human life or transience. What suggests the passage of time in this painting?

**Notice: Gerrit Berckheyde (1638-1698), *The Fish Market and the Grote Kerk at Haarlem*,**

 **c.1675-1680.** This painting will be viewed in Lecture 3, Architectural Painting.

**Rembrandt**

1. **Rembrandt copper etching plates.**
* In 1993, the estate of Dr. Robert Lee Humber sold the 78 original Rembrandt copper plates the doctor had previously acquired.
* Eight of the plates from Humber’s collection were sold to Robert Light, a noted Rembrandt expert and art dealer in New York. He sold the plates just one year later to Howard Berger. These are the eight plates on loan here.
* Show image of self-portrait as print

**Genre**

1. **Jan Miense Molenaer (1610/11-1668), *The Dentist*, 1629, Oil on cradled panel.**
* When was the painting acquired? 1952 This is an early work, the first signed and dated by Molenaer.
* From the Frans Hals circle in Haarlem, married Judith Leyster in 1636. Show self-portrait.
* Describe what you see. What is going on? Humorous, quack dentist dressed in fancy old fashion costume.
* What do you think is the moral of this story?
1. **Jan Steen (1626-1679), *The Worship of the Golden Calf*, c.1672-1675, Oil on canvas.**
* When was the painting acquired? 1952
* Describe the scene?
* born in Leyden, lifelong Catholic, 20 years younger than Rembrandt, unlike others, he moved around a lot. He studied under the landscape painter Jan van Goyen and married his daughter.
* Exodus 32 Steen mixes biblical scene with genre scene. . .Israelites grew impatient when Moses. . .his brother Aaron took over.
* boy looks out holding parrot=call for moderation. . . sexual innuendo everywhere
* Luxury and overindulgence will lead to ruin.
* Coincides with French invasion of Netherlands. IN 1672, the French invaded and crippled the economy

**Notice: Ludolf Bakhuizen (1631-1708), *Ships in a Stormy Sea off a Coast*, c 1700-05, Oil on canvas.** This painting will be viewed in Lecture 3, Marine Paintings.

\* The initial $1 million legislative appropriation was used to purchase 158 paintings, 2

 sculptures, and 25 pieces of furniture and other decorative arts objects in **February 1952**.

 The Kress Foundation matched the $1 million appropriation with a gift of 71 works of art.

NEXT week: Last 25 years of 17th c. Vermeer, Frans Hals, Marine painting, architectural painting, late still lifes and portraits.