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

Art from the Dutch Golden Age, Trade and Colonialism

**November 1 & 2 Gallery Session 2 in the Exhibition Dutch Art in a Global Age**

Overarching scheme of this exhibition:

* 17th century Dutch art from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
* Most of the works from a recent donation from 2 families to the MFA
* Works explored in the context of global trade in the 17th century.

The lectures focused mostly on a chronological survey of 17th- century Dutch art. The exhibition is curated into 6 themes. Today we will explore the first 3 thematic galleries.

“Let’s **NOTICE**” work: a quick note in passing.

“Let’s **LOOK**” work: a longer exploration of the work; data, content, design, and background.

1. **The World at Home (Still life)**

**LOOK** Balthasar van der Ast, (Dutch, 1593 or 1594–1657), *Still Life with Fruit and*

*Shells*, c.1623–24, Oil on panel.

* **Read the label**, note work was donated by Van Otterloos, as will be most of the works in this exhibition. Review lecture material, lecture 1 on gifted works.
* I**nventory** what do you see. 8 Insects? 1 Reptile? 4 types Fruit? 3 types Flowers? 7 Shells?
* **Design?** Arrangement? Viewpoint? Lighting?
* **Interpretation?** What in the painting may signal the vanitas theme? The transience of life?

**NOTICE** Wall of Tobacco still lifes (in Claesz. and Fris, tobacco is only imported item)

**LOOK**. Willem Heda, *Still Life with Glasses, and Tobacco*, 1633 Oil on panel.

* **Inventory**? Food? Dishes?
* **Design**? Arrangement, viewpoint? Lighting, surface textures and reflection?
* **Interpretation**? Objects in chaos liken to NCMA Den Uyl still life. See adjacent wall label. Where do these objects originate? Can the painting enjoy the display of luxury AND warn moderation?

**NOTICE**  Jan de Heem (1606-1663/63, *Sumptuous Still Life with Fruits, Pie and Goblets*, 1651,

Oil on canvas

* Compared to the Van der Ast and Heda, De Heem is ostentatious. *Pronk still life*

**NOTICE** Chinese Ming Dynasty plate, 1625-50. Porcelain, (Kraak ware).

* Look from behind to see transparency. Dutch copied, but thicker in Delft ware.

**LOOK**. Willem Kalf (1619-1693), *Still Life with Fruit in a Wanli Bowl*, 1664, Oil on canvas,

* **Inventory?** All luxury items. Peach, lemon, orange, silver plate, Chinese porcelain plate,

Venetian wine glass, agate handled knife, middle eastern rug, Italian marble table.

* Design? Contrasting color scheme creates bright palette. Lighting? Arrangement?
* **Interpretation?** Such skillful painting and elegance that painting itself is a luxury item,

pronk still life.

**NOTICE**. A glance at the wall of Flower still lifes as they represent a full stylistic evolution.

from the early 1600s to the early 1700s.

1. **The World Beyond (Marine paintings & Maps)**

**NOTICE.** Adam Willaerts, *The Departure of the Pilgrims*, 1620, Oil on panel**.**

* Discussed in lecture 1

**NOTICE.** Frans Post, *Landscape with the Ruins of Olinda*, 1663, Oil on panel.

* Discusses in Lecture 1. View adjacent video about sugar plantations.

**NOTICE** Bonaventura Peeters (1614 - 1652), *Dutch Ships in Antwerp Harbor*, 1637, Oilon

panel

* How can you tell this painting is an early harbor scene? Compare with adjacent Ruisdael

**LOOK.**  Jacob van Ruisdael (1628/29-1682), *Rough Sea*, c. 1670, Oil on canvas.

* **Inventory? Find** 14 boats, what kind? Notice anything in the scene on the right? What is the weather? Maybe Amsterdam on the horizon?
* **Design?** What is the focal point of the painting? Why?
* **Interpretation?** Does the painting say anything about Dutch sea power?

1. **Amsterdam as Cosmopolitan Hub (Architectural Paintings)**

**LOOK** Ludolf Bakhuizen (1631-1708), *Ships in a Gale on the IJ before the City of*

*Amsterdam*, 1666, Oil on canvas

* **Inventory?** 8 boats, how do they differ? What is the weather? Can you find a source of power in the painting? Can you see the forest of ships docked in the harbor? Can you find the Westerkerk with the tall steeple? Weather?
* **Design?** How much is sky?Diagram the diagonals of the boats and clouds.
* **Interpretation?** What does they painting say about Amsterdam? What gives the painting movement?

**LOOK** Joan Blaeu. *Map of Amsterdam*, 1648-52, Hand-colored engraving

* Find the Westerkerk (west church) Glance back at the Bakhuizen and find the Westerkerk. Search “Amsterdam” on your phone map app. What is wrong with this orientation?

**NOTICE**. Claes Jansz Visscher, Jr., *The Amsterdam Exchange*, 1612, Etching

* 1609 founding of Exchange bank of Amsterdam (modeled after Venetian bank)
* When was the stock market founded in Amsterdam?

**NOTICE** Emanuel de Witte (1617-91/ 92), *Interior of the Oude Kerk*, Amsterdam, c.

1660-65, Oil on canvas

* Interior of Reform Church without Catholic iconography
* Dogs? People posing for “photo?”

**LOOK**  Jan van der Heyden (1637-1712), *The Westerkerk*, Amsterdam, c.1667-70, Oil on

panel.

* Inventory of activities?
* Note detailed painting of brick workmortor.
* How can architectural paintings like this one represent pride of place?