



Ah

American Friends of the
Mauritshuis

Fulbright Fellowship Fund
Campaign

CASE FOR SUPPORT





AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MAURITSHUIS

The Mauritshuis is internationally recognized as a veritable “pearl” among the world’s great museums. Situated in the heart of The Hague — adjacent to the stately government buildings and office of the Prime Minister of the Netherlands — the Mauritshuis is celebrated for its collection which includes some of the most important collections of seventeenth-century Dutch and Flemish paintings. More than two hundred important works from the Dutch and Flemish Masters are on display in the intimate rooms of the seventeenth century mansion, including such masterpieces as Vermeer’s *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, Rembrandt’s *The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp*, and *The Goldfinch* by Carel Fabritius. In addition, the collection includes genre paintings by Jan Steen, landscapes by Jacob van Ruisdael, still lifes by Adriaen Coorte, and portraits by Rubens that reveal the very best of seventeenth-century Dutch and Flemish painting.

The American Friends of the Mauritshuis, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation, was founded in 1982 to strengthen ties between the Mauritshuis and American art lovers of this golden era of Dutch painting. Its primary goals are the following:

- To support the work of the Mauritshuis in the broadest sense possible
- To create awareness amongst the American public of the Mauritshuis and its collection
- To offer curatorial and conservation fellowships of American graduate students

Over the past several years, the American Friends has made a number of important contributions to the Mauritshuis, including the ongoing support for what is now a Fulbright Fellowship in painting conservation in collaboration with the University of Amsterdam (UvA). The Fulbright–American Friends of the Mauritshuis Grant has attracted a number of very talented students preparing for a career in conservation and restoration work.



Conservator Carol Pottasch working on the *Portrait of William I (1533-1584), Prince of Orange*, by Adriaen Thomasz Key



Mauritshuis conservators working on the ensemble by Giovanni Antonio Pellegrini (fall 2012)

FULBRIGHT-AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MAURITSHUIS FELLOWSHIP

Since 1985 the American Friends of the Mauritshuis (AFMh) has offered a fellowship to several outstanding American students. The Mauritshuis and its conservation studio are devoted to the highest level of technical research and are committed to providing advanced training opportunities for students to learn the art of paintings conservation and restoration.

In 2016, the AFMh entered into a cooperation with the Fulbright Program which offers even more possibilities to students with a strong interest and/or experience in the conservation and restoration of Old Master paintings. The American Friends are proud to join in the Fulbright tradition by establishing the Fulbright-American Friends of the Mauritshuis Grant which will be awarded on an annual basis. The grant will focus on the study, examination and treatment of works of art in the collection of the Mauritshuis, in combination with a tailor made study

program at the University of Amsterdam. The University of Amsterdam is the only university in the Netherlands offering a study program in Conservation and Restoration (consisting of nine specializations).

The grantee will gain practical experience and knowledge treating paintings in the conservation studio of the Mauritshuis, under the supervision of the conservators of the museum. The grantee will participate in workshops, (informal) lectures, symposia and other events at the university. During the grant period, research will not only include paintings in the Mauritshuis collection, but also pictures in other Dutch and/or European institutions.

The prestigious Fulbright grant will be offered through the network of the Fulbright Center and its US partner. The grantee will be enrolled as a research fellow at the University of Amsterdam and will receive a program specially designed for their educational experience. It will consist of coursework and a practical fellowship in the conservation studio of the Mauritshuis. In the past, fellows have been chosen from graduate students.



Conservator working on Rembrandt's *Saul and David* in the conservation studio (December 2014)



Carol Pottasch and Susan Smelt investigating Rembrandt's *Saul and David* using infrared reflectography (IIR)

The Fulbright–American Friends of the Mauritshuis Grant can now consider applicants who have already graduated from their universities but not yet begun graduate studies, thereby offering a broad group from which to choose. Besides the higher profile which the Fulbright association bestows, the collaboration with Fulbright and the UvA provides an important contribution to the training of young conservators who are still in need of practical experience. The first Fulbright fellow has started at the Mauritshuis in September 2017.

CAMPAIGN FOR FULBRIGHT FUND

The launch of the partnership with Fulbright signals an important new phase in the mission of the American Friends and commitment to American students determined to pursue a career in art conservation. In order to ensure the long-term continuance of this important fellowship, the American Friends have announced a campaign to establish a \$650,000 fund to provide a stable source of underwriting resources. Donations in any amount are welcome and most appreciated; however, Major Donors of \$50,000 and more will be recognized as “Founding Partners” in the Fulbright–American Friends of the Mauritshuis Grant.

The annual costs of the Fulbright AFMh Fellowship are approximately at €20,000 (or roughly \$22,500) per year. Most museum endowments maintain a payout level of 5% annually, with the remaining 95% invested conservatively to support the sustainability of programmatic activities.



Former Mauritshuis interns attend 45th Annual Meeting of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Chicago. *From left:* Megan Salazar Walsh (2013-14), Laura Hartman (2012-13), Ellen Nigro (2017-18), Julie Ribits (2015-16) and Dina Anchin (2011-12). Missing: Lauren Bradley (2010-11).

RECOGNITION FOR DONORS TO THE FULBRIGHT FUND

Recognition to major donors (\$50,000 and more) include:

- Names on the Donor Wall in the entrance area of the Mauritshuis
- Names on the AFMh website, under a new section 'Endowment' and 'Founding Partner'

THANK YOU!

The members of the Board of the American Friends of the Mauritshuis thank you for your steadfast partnership in our mission to raise awareness and provide ongoing support for this celebrated international artistic treasure – the Mauritshuis.

By partnering with us in this special campaign, you are helping create an essential legacy in painting conservation for the benefit of these fine students, while also making a lasting gift toward the restoration and preservation of great works of art for the benefit of generations to come.

AFMH FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI

The AFMH has provided fellowships to American students since 1985. These alumni are currently working in many exciting jobs in museums around the world and are contributing their talent and training to preserving great works of art.

2017 | **Ellen Nigro**

Fulbright/American Friends of the Mauritshuis Scholar

2016 | **Joshua Summer**

Mellon Fellow in Painting Conservation, Brooklyn Museum

2015 | **Julie Ribits**

Assistant Paintings Conservator, St. Louis Art Museum

2013 | **Megan Salazar-Walsh**

Assistant Curator, John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art

2013 | **John Hawley**

Associate Specialist, Old Master Paintings, Christie's

2012 | **Laura Hartman**

Associate Paintings Conservator, Dallas Museum of Art

2012 | **Judith Norman**

Lecturer in History of Art, University of Amsterdam, NL

2011 | **Dina Anchin**

Mellon Fellow in Painting Conservation, National Gallery of Art

2010 | **Lauren Bradley**

Associate Conservator of Paintings, Brooklyn Museum

2009 | **Melissa Cacciola**

Artist/Conservator

2008 | **Victoria Sancho Lobis**

Prince Trust Associate Curator of Prints and Drawings, Art Institute of Chicago

2007 | **Mariana Damian**

William Worth Bracken, Lecturer, University of Amsterdam, NL

2007 | **Ginny Treanor**

Associate Curator, National Museum of Women in the Arts

2006 | **Tanya Paul**

The Isabel and Alfred Bader Curator of European Art, Milwaukee Art Museum

2004 | **Noel Schiller**

Professor of Art History, University of South Florida

1998 | **Melinda Vander Ploeg Fallon**

Professor, History Department, George Mason University

1997 | **Rebecca Parker Brienen**

Vennerberg Chair of Art, Head of the Department of Art, Graphic Design and Art History, and Director, School of Visual and Performing Arts at Oklahoma State University

1996 | **Rebecca Tucker**

Associate Professor, Colorado College

1994 | **Julie Vinsonhaler Hansen**

Independent Scholar, Durham, North Carolina

1993 | **Claudia Swan**

Associate Professor of Art History, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern University

1992 | **Jan Kennedy**

Associate Professor and Program Head of the Asian Studies Certificate Program, Kansas City Art Institute

1990 | **Carol Jean Fresia**

1988 | **Jennifer Kilian**

Dutch-American Translator, Kist & Kilian

1987 | **Sara Wages**

1986 | **Alan Chong**

Director and CEO, Currier Museum of Art

1985 | **Dennis Weller**

Curator of Northern European Art, North Carolina Museum of Art

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