

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MAURITSHUIS



Newsletter Fall 2012

Dear American Friends of the Mauritshuis,

The Mauritshuis closed its doors to the public on April 2nd and is in the midst of their major building project. In order to expand the entrance foyer underground, the existing underground spaces (previously used for picture storage and offices) will be used. This space was constructed in the 1980s in a concrete shell, which must now be anchored deep in the ground in order to prevent it from floating up with the high level of the water table. The staircase gallery, the Golden Room and all the other spaces look quite different now that the double glazing and protective films have been removed from the original windows. Daylight now pours into the gallery spaces. This year's MIT Palitz Fellow, Henry Skupniewicz, visited the Mauritshuis and plans to compile a digital reconstruction of how the Mauritshuis originally looked in the seventeenth century. We hope to report to you his findings next year.



MAURITSHUIS COLLECTION ON VIEW AT THE GEMEENTEMUSEUM

More than 100 highlights from the collection are displayed in a separate wing in the Gemeentemuseum in The Hague. To see the familiar masterpieces outside of their usual surroundings in this 20th-century architectural highlight truly allows for a riveting

experience. Paintings that we know so well now shine in this special display and can literally be appreciated in a different light. Do not miss this opportunity when you are next in the Netherlands. The installation will be up until the spring of 2014.



NEW FRAMES

This year, the American Friends contributed new frames for Rembrandt's *Suzanna* and the *Portrait of Steven van Herwijck* by Anthonis Mor van Dashorst. The American Friends also supported the treatment of the 19th-century frame for Paulus Potter's *Bull*, the star of the new display at the Gemeentemuseum.

CONSERVATION INTERNSHIP

This month, Laura Hartman, graduate fellow in conservation at Winterthur/University of Delaware will arrive in the Netherlands to start her internship. Laura will be working on the study and restoration of the Pellegrini ceiling paintings, part of the painted ensemble that was commissioned for the Golden Room of the Mauritshuis in the early 18th century. The temporary conservation studios are in an external locations, where the conservators can continue their work. We are looking forward to a detailed report of Laura's experiences in the Netherlands.

NEW CONSERVATION STUDIO

The enormous ongoing generosity of Eijk and Rose-Marie de Mol van Otterloo will allow the Mauritshuis to renovate its conservation studio for the reopening in 2014. The conservation studio, located in the attic of the building, is in dire need of renewed facilities in order to accommodate the latest technical equipment and research. There was no funding in the new building budget allocated for these adjustments. Eijk and Rose-Marie have provided funds, which have been matched by members of the Johan Maurits Compagnie Foundation, that will allow the conservators to return to a state-of-the-art facility. If you are interested in supporting the Mauritshuis as well, please let us know.

COLLECTION ON TOUR

Highlights of the collection opened in the Tokyo's Metropolitan Art Museum on June 30. This select group of 48 paintings will continue their Japanese tour at the City Museum in Kobe from September 29th on. In 2013, 35 paintings will finally arrive in the United States and first open at the de Young Museum in San Francisco on January 26th, and in Atlanta at the High Museum from June 2013 on. Ten paintings will be part of the focus exhibition at the Frick in New York: *Vermeer, Rembrandt, and Hals: Masterpieces of Dutch Painting from the Mauritshuis*, from October 22 2013 through January 21, 2014. Stay tuned for invitations to these events.

SUPPORT THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MAURITSHUIS

The Board of the American Friends wishes to express its gratitude to our supporters who make it all possible. By joining the American Friends, you become a member of a group of patrons who care deeply about the Mauritshuis and are committed to support Dutch paintings of the Golden Age. In addition to receiving the American Friends newsletter, supporters receive invitations to museum visits, events, private gallery viewings, and much more. The American Friends is a recognized tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization and all contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please become a supporter today!



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