

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MAURITSHUIS

Newsletter Spring/Summer 2010

Dear American Friends of the Mauritshuis,

Our Spring/Summer Newsletter is dedicated to a painting gifted to the American Friends by Matthijs de Clercq more than ten years ago, which has been on longterm loan since then to the Mauritshuis. Mr. De Clercq not only supports the American Friends and the Mauritshuis but is also dedicated to Teylers Museum in Haarlem, for which he has purchased numerous drawings. On the occasion of his 80th birthday this summer, The Teylers Museum will honor Mr. De Clercq with an exhibition of the collection of more than seventy drawings he acquired for the museum.

SALOMON VAN RUYSDAEL

In 1998, Mr. De Clercq approached the American Friends of the Mauritshuis to facilitate the donation of his Salomon van Ruysdael painting, then titled *Landscape with a Rowboat and Four Men*, to the Mauritshuis. Mr. De Clercq expressed the desire to gift the painting to a Dutch institution. In return, Mr. De Clercq received a US government tax-benefit, similar to having donated it to an American institution.



Once this attractive panel arrived in the Mauritshuis, research by the museum staff revealed the location of the landscape as a view on Beverwijk from the Wijkermeer. The painting can be dated to circa 1661 and will be on loan to the Teylers Museum this summer for the exhibition *From New York with love*, from June 10 through September 19, 2010.

In the meantime, we all wish Matthijs de Clercq a very happy and healthy birthday, with much gratitude for his generous gift to our organization.

ONGOING AT THE MAURITSHUIS

At the Mauritshuis, the much anticipated exhibition *The Young Vermeer* remains on view through August 22. Three early Vermeer paintings have been brought together: *Christ in the House of Martha and Mary* from Edinburgh, *The Procuress* from Dresden and *Diana and her Nymphs* from the Mauritshuis. These early works are quite different from the richly decorated interiors with women you might expect from Vermeer. Instead they depict a mythological subject, a story from the Bible and a brothel scene, and all are surprisingly large. Nonetheless, they all reveal the master's hand and the seeds of his later style. They also show a young Vermeer already captivated by tranquility and light, qualities that would later make him world-famous. The exhibition has been generously supported with a grant by the American Express Foundation through the American Friends of the Mauritshuis.



INTERNSHIP

In September, the annual internship has been awarded to Lauren Bradley, a paintings conservation graduate fellow from the University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation at Winterthur. Ms. Bradley will work closely together with Petria Noble and the team of conservators at the Mauritshuis, and we look forward to sharing her findings with you soon.

SUPPORT THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MAURITSHUIS

By joining the American Friends, you join 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!

We all wish you a very good summer and look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

The Board of the American Friends of the Mauritshuis.



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