

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MAURITSHUIS

Newsletter Fall 2009

Dear American Friends of the Mauritshuis,

Our Fall Newsletter is dedicated to the internship of Melissa Cacciola at the Mauritshuis. Melissa was the first recipient of the American Friends scholarship to work in the conservation department. We hope that you will enjoy reading her report.

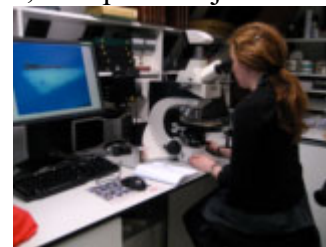
PRIVATE TOUR LEIDEN GALLERY

On Tuesday, November 10th, all our members are invited to join us for a private tour and cocktails from 6.00. to 7.00pm at the Leiden Gallery, 700 Madison Avenue, 5th floor, to visit the old masters collection of Tom Kaplan. Please let us know before October 30th if you are able to attend at americanfriends@mauritshuis.nl .

INTERNSHIP

Melissa Cacciola was our first recipient of the Fellowship program for students to intern in the Mauritshuis, either in the conservation studio or in the curatorial department. Melissa worked from May through July 2009 in the conservation studio under the guidance of Head Conservator Petria Noble.

The reinstallation of the Prince Willem V gallery, scheduled to re-open in summer 2010, offered the unique opportunity to treat and study several paintings by the artist Philip van Dijk (Oud-Beijerland 1683-1753 The Hague). The technical study of two of his paintings will be taken up in the entries in the pending publication of the genre catalogue of the collection. Art dealer, advisor and restorer to Prince Willem IV, Philip van Dijk is thought to have trained with Adriaen van der Werff, and is typically known for small format, highly finished genre scenes. Van Dijk received many commissions for the court in Kassel and the Schuylenburch House in The Hague. Examination with ultraviolet, infrared, binocular microscope, and cross-section analysis comprised the main tools of study of the paint layer structure and composition from the ground layer and underdrawing to the upper-lying paint layers. Both paintings, which required only minor treatment, are now ready to be installed in the gallery of Willem V.



Melissa also completed the final phase of restoration for *Portrait of a Young Woman* by Peter Paul Rubens and studio, dated to the 1620s. This picture depicts a three-quarter length portrait of a woman in a Venetian costume. The present costume was painted over an earlier version of the woman in contemporary court costume and a pearl tiara, once thought to depict Ruben's second wife, Helene Fourment. With the completion of the retouching and final varnishing this portrait can now also be reinstalled in the Prince Willem V gallery. Considering that this painting once belonged to the original collection of Willem V, it is satisfying that *Portrait of a Young Woman* will finally take its place in front of the public.

Melissa was also given the opportunity to see important exhibitions and collections abroad, which included the exhibition *Van Dyke and Britain* at Tate Britain, the Wallace Collection and the Dulwich Picture Gallery in London; the Gemäldegalerie, Berlin; the Jacquemart-André Museum, Paris; the Rubenshuis in Antwerp and the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Brussels and numerous exhibitions and collections throughout the Netherlands. Melissa also visited the conservation studios at the Frans Hals Museum in Haarlem, the Gemeentemuseum, The Hague, the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, the National Gallery, London, and various private conservation studios . Not only was Melissa's participation with a team of conservators, whose highly refined technical research and

approach to conservation serve as an important model in the field of conservation, an invaluable experience, she also had a chance to visit many other institutions and make important contacts in the field.

ONGOING AT THE MAURITSHUIS

After a two-year absence, a gilded table after a design by Daniel Marot (1661-1752) is back on display. The table, which dates from around 1709, is richly decorated with four figures carrying a tabletop loaded with garlands of flowers. Over the years, the table which became dull after losing its original gilding, was re-gilded in The Netherlands. The restoration was made possible by the Johan Maurits Compagnie Foundation. If you are interested in supporting restoration projects at the Mauritshuis, we would be glad to inform you of future projects.



[Read more](#)

We look forward to seeing you again during our visit to the Leiden Gallery.

The Board of the American Friends of the Mauritshuis.



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