

# AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MAURITSHUIS

## Newsletter Summer 2009

Dear American Friends of the Mauritshuis,

Welcome to our first Newsletter, which we hope you will find of interest. We would like to keep you up to date on events in the Mauritshuis, as well as related topics in the United States.

### EVENTS

Members enjoyed two events this spring. Our visit to *Pride of Place: Dutch Cityscapes of the Golden Age* at the National Gallery in Washington on May 1 with a lunch and private tour by Dr. Arthur Wheelock was a great opportunity to see this outstanding exhibition. The tour was followed by a concert of the Royal Dutch Orchestra's Brass Ensemble and a cocktail party at the residency of the Dutch Ambassador, Renée Bos-Jones, providing a lively and elegant highlight.



During the Frick's two-day symposium, *Holland's Golden Age in America: Collecting the Art of Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Hals*, on May 15-16, Mauritshuis senior curator Quentin Buvelot as well as our board members Dr. Walter Liedtke, Dr. Peter Sutton and Rose-Marie de Mol van Otterloo all made interesting contributions. In his keynote address, Dr. Sutton mentioned that Dutch paintings in American collections are of such importance, that no one can really study Dutch art without visiting the States. Dr. Liedtke presented an excellent overview of the acquisitions of Dutch paintings in the Gilded Age in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art to underline this fact. In his address "Has the Great Age of Collecting Dutch Old Master Paintings Come to an End?", Buvelot disputed the idea that good works are unavailable since many have appeared on the market, deaccessioned by British estates for tax purposes, or by museums for all different reasons, including restitution. The interview at the end of the symposium by Dr. Sutton with Boston collectors Eijk and Rose-Marie van Otterloo certainly proved the point.

### ONGOING AT THE MAURITSHUIS



The recipient of our current internship, Melissa Cacciola, has started her internship at the conservation studio. Cacciola is primarily working on paintings to be installed in the Willem V Gallery. This Gallery was the first public museum in the Netherlands. In 1774 the stadholder Willem V, Prince of Orange-Nassau (1748-1806), brought the most important paintings of his collection together in this building at the Buitenhof. The largest part of Willem V's collection was brought to the Mauritshuis in 1822, depleting the Gallery on the Buitenhof of its function. The Gallery is currently scheduled to reopen at the end of this year, with walls covered with paintings from floor to ceiling, following the custom at that time. [Read more](#)

A team of conservators is kept constantly occupied preserving the collection. In the new publication *Preserving our Heritage. Conservation, Restoration and Technical Research in the Mauritshuis*, provides an account of their activities and discoveries, such as what materials Vermeer used, what Rembrandt's last self-portrait originally looked like and how it took a group of at least sixteen Antwerp artists to make one painting. [Read more](#)

### LOANS



*Madonna and Child*, circa 1520, one of the two paintings by Jan Gossaerts (1478-1535), called Mabuse, is to be restored by head conservator Petria Noble, in preparation for the loan to the Metropolitan Museum's upcoming exhibition. Together with *Portrait of Floris van Egmond*, it will make the trip to New York in 2010. We shall remind you of the exhibition closer to the date.



The Mauritshuis's painting *Man Offering Money to a Young Woman* by Judith Leyster (1609-1660) is currently on view at the National Gallery of Art in Washington for the small monographic presentation in celebration of the artist's 400th birthday. The exhibition runs through November 29, 2009.



If you visit the Netherlands this summer, please do visit the Mauritshuis as the collection has been recently enhanced with several new works. One such acquisition is a seventeenth century brass chandelier, presented to the museum at the departure of former director Frits Duparc. [Read more](#)

Finally, a number of magnificent floral still lifes in the permanent collection have been brought together in room 6 in the Mauritshuis in anticipation of the Dutch and Flemish flower still lifes 1600-1750 exhibition scheduled for 2011. It provides a worthy preview.



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

The Board of the American Friends of the Mauritshuis.

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