

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MAURITSHUIS



Newsletter Summer 2014

Dear American Friends of the Mauritshuis,

OPENING MAURITSHUIS

This month, the Mauritshuis will reopen to the public. The paintings returned from their world tour and are being installed in the redecorated galleries.

Our members should have received an invitation to the *Special Preview* on Thursday, June 26th. The *Grand Opening* will take place the following day on Friday, June 27th and includes our Director's Circle members. If you wish to attend either opening, need to renew or upgrade your membership, [please contact us](#). Members receive free admission to the Mauritshuis.

At the Friends Party at The Frick in New York October, we announced our contribution of \$100,000 towards the lighting of the paintings. Also, in 2012, the American Friends supported the funding of a new frame for Paulus Potter's *The Bull*. The Potter, one of the highlights of the collection, was in need of a new frame before being exhibited in its temporary home the Gemeentemuseum during the renovation. We hope we can do more this year with your help!

FELLOWSHIP

Megan Salazar-Walsh, recipient of the 2013-2014 American Friends of the Mauritshuis Fellowship, just returned from her six-month internship in The Hague and is now at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore. Megan focused on the research and treatment of paintings commissioned from the traveling Venetian artist, Giovanni Antonio Pellegrini (1675-1741) around 1718 for the Golden Room: three ceiling paintings, two chimney paintings, four grisailles and six tondos. Previously, the attribution to Pellegrini and date of the tondos had been questioned. However, examination revealed that the preparatory ground layer on the tondos is identical to the ground used for the ceiling and chimney paintings. In order to understand the original appearance, carefully selected



paint samples were taken and examined with a microscope. Cross-sections revealed that metal leaf was applied over a mordant layer directly on the ground layer; with the flowers painted on top of the metal leaf. Subsequent elemental analysis carried out at Shell Technology Centre in Amsterdam revealed that the metal leaf is composed of copper and zinc.

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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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