

# AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MAURITSHUIS



## Newsletter Spring 2014

### RUYSDAEL ENTERS THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

In 1999, Mathijs de Clercq donated *View of Beverwijk from the Wijkermeer* by Salomon van Ruysdael to the Mauritshuis through the American Friends as a partial and promised gift. Given that this impressive masterpiece would enhance the Mauritshuis's superb collection, the American Friends announced our intention to give the painting to the Mauritshuis once we had full legal possession. In the meantime, the painting was transferred over the basis of a long-term loan. At the close of 2013, the charitable gift was finalized and the painting will now become part of the permanent collection of the Mauritshuis. The American Friends and the Mauritshuis are extremely grateful and wish to thank Matthijs de Clercq's for his generosity and continuing support.

Salomon van Ruysdael was the artist par excellence of the verdant lowlands of the northern Netherlands, with its rivers and small lakes, polders and church spires. Throughout his long career, van Ruysdael created a wide oeuvre that depicts the landscape in every season and weather condition. In a *View of Beverwijk from the Wijkermeer*, the land is nearly eliminated, with the concentration focused almost entirely on sky, clouds and water. Above the lake, with sailing vessels hangs a mass of clouds, resulting in a monumental effect, despite the panel's modest dimensions. Within the water and cloud section, van Ruysdael has left some of the brown ground layer visible, so that it can play an important, unifying role in the painting's tonality.

Although lacking the paucity of buildings, the location of this landscape can never the less be identified. The church and steeple depicted here, together with the windmill and building to the far right of the panel, constitute a well known view of Beverwijk as seen from Wijkermeer. Van Ruysdael was renown for skillfully depicting well-known topographical



Salomon van Ruysdael  
(1600/3-1670)  
*View of Beverwijk from the  
Wijkermeer, circa 1661*

elements that pleased his contemporary audience as much as it pleases us today.

Oil on panel  
16 x 15 inches (41 x 35.5 cm.)  
Inv. no. 1117

## FELLOWSHIP

On January 27th, Laura Hartman, our 2012 recipient of our conservation fellowship, now the Andrew W. Mellon Fellow at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, shared her experiences of her technical examination and conservation work on the Pellegrini paintings in the Golden Room. If you missed the talk, but want to learn more about this important restoration project, [watch these two videos](#).

## OPENING MAURITSHUIS

This June, the Mauritshuis will reopen with all the paintings returned from their world tour and installed to shine to best advantage in their renewed galleries. All our members should have already received a save the date for a 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](#) or [visit our website](#).



With the renovated building comes a new logo and house style. We will be adapting the American Friend's website and letterhead shortly to incorporate the new design.

## [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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