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Ode to Antwerp – the Secrets of the Dutch Masters

Lecture on October 19th 2023 by

Micha Leeftang

Curator of Museum Catharijneconvent in Utrecht



Almost everyone in the Netherlands in the 17th century had a painting hanging on the wall. They were made in the millions, for every purse and taste. Master painters like Frans Hals, Rembrandt and Jan Steen are still world-famous. Remarkably, though, very few painters were working in the Northern Netherlands before the end of the 16th century, and there was no art market. Where did the artistic explosion come from?

Holland owed its remarkable flowering, among other things, to thousands of refugees from Antwerp, which was the most important city in the Netherlands at the time. When Catholic Spain recaptured

Antwerp in 1585, wealthy Protestant merchants and ambitious artists left for the more tolerant Northern Netherlands in droves. Amsterdam soon replaced Antwerp as a leading economic and artistic centre in north-western Europe.

Dr. Micha Leeftang will tell you more about this important tipping point in history. To this day it influences the similarities and differences between the Dutch and the Flemish.

*Micha Leeftang (1975) is a technical art-historian, specialized in the research with infrared reflectography. Since her Ph.D. from the University of Groningen in 2007 she works as curator of medieval art at the **Museum Catharijneconvent in Utrecht**, where she is responsible for the collection of manuscripts, 15th and 16th century paintings, sculpture and liturgical vestments. Among the various exhibitions she organized is **Ode to Antwerp – the Secrets of the Dutch Masters (until 17 Sep.)***

www.catharijneconvent.nl



Location: Embassy of the Netherlands

Avenue de Cortenbergh 4-10, 1040 Brussels (Metro: Schuman)

Time: lecture at 13h, drinks & sandwich lunch from 12h.

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