

Presented by the Dutch Group with the highly appreciated support of the  
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

**'The Art of Laughing: Humour in 17th century Paintings & Prints'**

*Lecture by*

**Thera Folmer-von Oven**



The fool in Roemer Visscher,  
Sinnepoppen, 1614



Godfried Schalcken, The useless moral  
lesson, circa 1680/84, The Hague Mauritshuis

Everyone knows the paintings with merry companies in which there is dancing, music making, wine drinking and flirtation. This genre was extremely popular in the seventeenth century. But is this just about entertainment or is there more to it? What does the fool do in the midst of the party and why are these young people dressed so showy? The popular emblem books are an important source for the interpretation. These are picture books in which a certain concept is explained on the basis of an image. Apparently everyday situations and objects are given a symbolic explanation. It is not surprising that this explanation is moralizing. The underlying message is: having fun is allowed, but beware of the dangers. Especially the young suitors and their loved ones have to be careful! Humour goes hand in hand with morality, learning and entertainment. This lecture is about the slippery path of love, marriage (watch out for women wearing the pants), the unequal couple and old age.

*Thera Folmer is an art historian and gives lectures and courses about art. She has been working as curator of the Liberna Collection, a private collection of old books, prints and drawings.*

**Thursday October 7, 2021**

**Location:** Embassy of the Netherlands

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

**Time:** lecture 13.00 hrs. Drinks and sandwich lunch from 12.15 hrs

**Entrance fee (lecture and sandwich lunch): € 26**

. Registration: [http://www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu/our events/humour in paintings](http://www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu/our%20events/humour%20in%20paintings).

Payment to the account of the Association: BE47 3100 7081 9180. Please mention your name, "The Art of Laughing" and number of tickets. Payment will confirm your participation

**Postponed event due to Covid: last year's registrations are maintained unless you prefer a refund**

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