

PRESS RELEASE

25 JANUARY 2019



MUSEUM
PRINSENHOF
DELFT

ARRIVAL FIRST PAINTING PIETER DE HOOCH IN DELFT

Pieter de Hooch's painting *Portrait of a Delft family* (circa 1657-1660) can be seen at the Museum Prinsenhof Delft starting 24 January 2019. This painting from the *Gemäldegalerie der Akademie der bildenden Künste Wien* (*Picture Gallery of the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, Austria*) is a prelude to the important retrospective exhibition *Pieter de Hooch in Delft: From the shadow of Vermeer* (from 11 October 2019 through 16 February 2020) and is one of the masterpieces of this exhibition.

This key 17th-century work is one of the few family portraits by Pieter de Hooch and the only one that can be placed in Delft. It has not been on display in the Netherlands for over 70 years. During the past months, it has been researched by a Rijksmuseum restorer as part of an extensive investigation of the painting techniques of the 17th-century Delft master in the context of the exhibition.

In the painting *Portrait of a Delft family*, we see a large Delft family of presumably three generations. It is not entirely clear how the family members are related to each other, but the two on the left and the man and woman with the grapes on the right are generally assumed to be married couples. In the distance, the tower of the Nieuwe Kerk in Delft is visible and the wall on the right is probably the city wall. De Hooch is admired for his accurate representation of perspective, with his many so-called 'doorkijkjes' or views through. In this painting, with eight figures, we look through an open door into a second courtyard and then through another doorway onto the street.

The Vienna art academy was given this painting in 1822 as the work of the painter Gerard ter Borch. In the 19th century, it was attributed to Johannes Vermeer by a number of writers, including Thoré-Bürger, whose 1866 book about Vermeer earned him recognition as the rediscoverer of the artist. The painting was first attributed to Pieter de Hooch by Carl Vosmaer in 1874 and from the end of the 19th century, this attribution has generally been accepted.

ART RIDDLE

Despite the suggestions of a number of researchers, the identity of the family depicted in this portrait remains unclear. In the months preceding the exhibition in the Museum Prinsenhof Delft, various researchers are trying to solve this 'art riddle'. The results of this search and of studies of the painting's materials and techniques will be presented in the exhibition *Pieter de Hooch in Delft* and the accompanying catalogue starting on 11 October 2019.

In 2017, the Museum Prinsenhof Delft received the Turing Foundation Art Award I for the best Dutch museum exhibition plan for 2019-2020. The Turing Foundation is the main benefactor of the exhibition. The exhibition Pieter de Hooch in Delft is further made possible with support from the Municipality of Delft, Fonds 21, Rabobank and DSM.

REMBRANDT AND THE DUTCH GOLDEN AGE

2019 will be the 350th anniversary of the death of Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669). Reason to honour the artist and devote extra attention to his work, his contemporaries and the 17th century. These subjects come together in the year commemorating Rembrandt and the Dutch Golden Age, with many exhibitions and activities throughout the country. In 2019, NBTC Holland Marketing, the Fries Museum, the Mauritshuis, Museum het Rembrandthuis, the Rijksmuseum, Museum De Lakenhal, Museum Prinsenhof Delft, The National Maritime Museum, the Municipal Archive Amsterdam and the Jewish Cultural Quarter will work together with cities including Middelburg, Leiden, Dordrecht, Haarlem, Enkhuizen, Hoorn, Delft and Amsterdam under the title Rembrandt and the Dutch Golden Age. For an overview of all activities and partners, see: rembrandt-2019.nl.

DELFT & THE GOLDEN AGE

In 2019, Delft will 'turn to gold' with a year of cultural events on aspects of the 17th-century Delft Golden Age in today's Delft. 'Delft & the Golden Age' is part of the year commemorating 'Rembrandt and the Dutch Golden Age' in the Netherlands. The year of commemoration in Delft begins in January with the exhibition *Glorious Delft Blue* at Royal Delft. The exhibition *Pieter de Hooch in Delft: From the shadow of Vermeer* will be the highlight of the Delft commemoration. For more information, see: delft.com

**EXHIBITION *PIETER DE HOOCH IN DELFT:
FROM THE SHADOW OF VERMEER***

The first retrospective exhibition of the work of the famous 17th-century painter Pieter de Hooch (1629-after 1684) will be on view in the Museum Prinsenhof Delft from 11 October 2019 through 16 February 2020. Together with Johannes Vermeer, Pieter de Hooch is considered to be the most important Delft master of the Dutch Golden Age. De Hooch created his most beautiful paintings during his years in Delft, between 1652 and 1661.

The Museum Prinsenhof Delft is bringing these Delft masterpieces back to the city where they were painted after an absence of nearly four centuries. The works on loan are from major international collections around the world. Altogether, the exhibition comprises approximately 35 paintings, including 30 works by Pieter de Hooch.

PRESS INFORMATION & IMAGES:

http://bit.ly/PieterdeHooch_press

MUSEUM PRINSENHOF DELFT

Noepy Testa

Press Office

+31 (0)6 29141054

pers-prinsenhof@delft.nl

prinsenhof-delft.nl