

Recent Acquisitions of Dutch and Flemish Drawings

Over the past decade, the collection of Dutch and Flemish drawings at the National Gallery of Art has enjoyed steady growth, thanks largely to the generosity of many donors. This exhibition presents more than twenty of these recent acquisitions, spanning nearly five centuries, from the mid-fifteenth century to the early twentieth. Executed in a variety of media and covering a range of subjects, including landscapes, seascapes, portraits, still lifes, and history, the drawings convey the richness and originality of Dutch and Flemish draftsmanship. Though not a true survey, the selection offers a glimpse of the broad stylistic changes that took place over the centuries, from the classical rhythms of the Renaissance and the elegant distortions of the mannerist period that followed to the bold expressiveness of the early twentieth century.

A few special treasures punctuate the selection. The earliest sheet, dating from about 1442, is one of only nine surviving pages from a fifteenth-century manuscript with illustrations by Barthélemy van Eyck. Unusual in a different vein and of a particularly jewel-like beauty is a painted miniature of the Adoration of the Magi from the mid-1520s by Simon Bening. Dating from a century later are two rare studies by one of the most important Dutch followers of Caravaggio, Gerrit van Honthorst. A number of other visual delights round out the selection, including a highly refined pen drawing from 1562 by Maerten van Heemskerck, made in preparation for a print; a vibrant floral still life of the 1720s by Jan van Huysum; and a striking self-portrait by the twentieth-century painter and designer Lodewijk Schelfhout, made in 1907 — when he was just twenty-six years old.

This exhibition is organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington.

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FINAL 100% film

SIMON BENING

Flemish, 1483/1484–1561

The Adoration of the Magi

mid-1520s

tempera heightened with gold on vellum

Woodner Collection, Gift of Dian Woodner, 2013

ABRAHAM BLOEMAERT

Dutch, 1564–1651

Acis and Galatea

c. 1590

pen and ink with wash and

traces of white heightening over chalk

Woodner Collection, Gift of Andrea Woodner, 2006

BARTHÉLEMY VAN EYCK

Netherlandish, active c. 1435–1470

Seven Famous Figures from Ancient History

c. 1442

pen and ink with watercolor,
heightened with white, on vellum

Woodner Collection, Gift of Andrea Woodner, 2006

This is one of nine surviving pages from an illustrated chronicle that originally depicted more than three hundred personages of ancient, biblical, medieval, and legendary importance. The famous figures were presented in quasi-chronological order, beginning with the creation of Adam. The seven on this page are from the sixth century BC. The two figures in the top row are Brutus Lucius Junius, a founder and consul of the Roman Republic, and Peisistratus, an autocratic ruler of ancient Athens. Next, the Persian king Cambyses stands before the city of Babylon, which, according to the Latin inscription below it, he had saved from Egypt. He is paired with the Hebrew heroine Judith, who beheaded the Babylonian general Holofernes. Standing in the last row are the Greek philosopher and mathematician Pythagoras; Darius the Great, Cambyses's successor to the Persian throne, and the Old Testament prophet Haggai.

ABRAHAM GENOELS II

Flemish, 1640–1723

Landscape with a Natural Arch

c. 1718

pen and ink with wash and watercolor
over traces of graphite and chalk

Joseph F. McCrindle Collection, 2009

HENDRICK GOLTZIUS

Dutch 1558 – 1617

Ignis

c. 1586

pen and ink with wash and white heightening
on paper washed pink

Gift of Ruth Cole Kainen, 2012

JAN GOSSAERT

Netherlandish, c. 1478 – 1532

***Two Kings and a Woman Leaving
an Elaborate Palace***

1503/1508

pen and ink

Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund and
Gift of Dian Woodner, 2008

JORIS VAN DER HAAGEN

Dutch, 1615 – 1669

Woods at Night with Travelers

wash heightened with white gouache on blue paper

Purchased as the Gift of Diane A. Nixon, 2006

MAERTEN VAN HEEMSKERCK

Netherlandish, 1498 – 1574

Satan Challenges God to Remove His Protection from Job

1562

pen and ink over traces of graphite,
incised for transfer

Joseph F. McCrindle Collection, 2010

One of a series of eight designs for prints depicting the biblical story of Job, this sheet shows Satan daring the Lord, at center with his hand on the globe, to rescind his protection over his most faithful servant. God accepts the challenge, allowing Satan to cause Job to suffer from a number of depredations and trials, but Job's faith never wavers. He is shown at the lower right, his hands folded in prayer and acceptance; his wife stands beside him, urging him — without success — to curse God.

GERRIT VAN HONTHORST

Dutch, 1590 – 1656

Diana and Two Nymphs Receiving Gifts from a Satyr

1620s

pen and ink over chalk, heightened with white,
on brown paper

Pepita Milmore Memorial Fund, 2015

GERRIT VAN HONTHORST

Dutch, 1590–1656

*Diana and Four Nymphs Receiving Gifts
from a Satyr*

c. 1630

pen and ink with wash over chalk,
heightened with white gouache, on brown paper

Pepita Milmore Memorial Fund, 2015

JAN VAN HUYSUM

Dutch, 1682–1749

*Bouquet of Spring Flowers in a
Terracotta Vase*

1720s

oiled charcoal and watercolor

Pepita Milmore Memorial Fund,
The Ahmanson Foundation Fund, Linda H. Kaufman Fund,
and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Glickfield Fund, 2011

JOHAN BARTHOLD JONGKIND

Dutch, 1819–1891

*Countryside near Brezins,
between Grenoble and Vienne*

1880s

chalk and watercolor on two joined sheets of paper
Purchased as the Gift of Joan and David Maxwell, 2006

CIRCLE OF HUGO VAN DER GOES

Netherlandish, 15th century

Jacob's Dream

1480/1490

pen and ink, heightened with white gouache
on brown paper

Gift of Beatrix von Hoffmann, 2016

JAN MULLER

Dutch, 1571–1628

Angels in Glory

1590

chalk and ink with wash,
heightened with white gouache

Ruth and Jacob Kainen Memorial Acquisition Fund, 2013

NETHERLANDISH SCHOOL

16th Century

*View of the Janiculum Hill in Rome,
Seen from the Tiber*

1553

pen and ink over chalk

Gift of Ladislaus and Beatrix von Hoffmann, 2011

JAN PEETERS I

Dutch, 1624–c. 1677

Beaulne (Beaune)

c. 1650

pen and ink with wash over graphite

Purchased as the Gift of Diane A. Nixon, 2014

ROELANDT SAVERY

Dutch, 1576–1639

***Mountainous Landscape with
Castles and Waterfalls***

c. 1606

chalk with traces of white heightening
on gray-green paper

Woodner Collection, Gift of Dian Woodner, 2011

LODEWIJK SCHELFHOUT

Dutch, 1881–1943

Self-Portrait

1907

pen and ink

Purchased as the Gift of Vincent J. Buonanno, 2012

PETRUS JOHANNES SCHOTEL

Dutch, 1808–1865

Ships in a Stormy Sea

c. 1840

pen and ink with wash

Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund, 2014

CORNELIS STEFFELAAR

Dutch, 1795–1861

A Giant Oak at the Edge of a Forest

1840s(?)

pen and ink with wash

Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund, 2014

JACOB VAN STRIJ

Dutch, 1756–1815

***Man Sitting on a Wheelbarrow
with a Beer Keg***

c. 1787

gray wash over graphite

Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund, 2016

MICHAEL SWEERTS

Flemish, 1618–1664

Jan van den Enden

c. 1651

chalk

New Century Fund, 2012

GASPAR VAN WITTEL

Dutch, 1652/1653–1736

The Ruins of an Ancient Amphitheater

c. 1701

pen and ink with wash over chalk

Wolfgang Ratjen Collection,
Patrons' Permanent Fund, 2007