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**FIRST EXHIBITION DEVOTED TO RENOWNED  
WINTER LANDSCAPES BY 17TH-CENTURY DUTCH  
ARTIST HENDRICK AVERCAMP ON VIEW AT THE  
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART,  
MARCH 21–JULY 5, 2010**

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### **First Monograph About Avercamp in 25 Years Accompanies Exhibition**



**Hendrick Avercamp, *Golf Players on the Ice*, c. 1625**

oil on panel  
Mrs. Edward Speelman

Washington, DC—In the first exhibition devoted to Dutch landscape artist Hendrick Avercamp (1585–1634), scenes of ice skating, sleigh rides, and outdoor games on frozen canals and waterways bring to life the lively pastimes and day-to-day bustle of the Golden Age of the Dutch Republic. On view in the West Building Dutch Cabinet Galleries at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, from March 21 through July 5, 2010, ***Hendrick Avercamp: The Little Ice Age*** will feature some 14 paintings and 16 drawings that capture the harsh winters of the period and the activities they made possible. A selection of 17th-century Dutch ice skates will also be on view.

The exhibition was organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, and the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, where it was on view from November 20, 2009 through February 15, 2010.

"Avercamp's images capture a timeless quality that resonates to this day, making his winter landscapes quintessential representations of 17th-century Holland," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art. "We are grateful to the museums and private collectors in Europe and the United States who graciously agreed to lend their delicate Avercamp paintings and drawings for the exhibition."

### **Hendrick Avercamp (1585–1634)**

Hendrick Avercamp was born in Amsterdam, but he lived and worked in Kampen, far removed from the artistic centers of Amsterdam and Haarlem. He was known to contemporaries as the "Stomme van Kampen" (*Mute of Kampen*), for he was not able to speak and was possibly deaf. He had a sharp eye for visual anecdote and—although he painted in a style that reflected the 16th-century pictorial traditions of winter scenes by Pieter Bruegel the Elder—his cast of characters and their activities became the primary focus of his work. Avercamp was the first artist to specialize in winter landscapes that feature people enjoying themselves on the ice, thus making the "ice scene" a genre in its own right.

### **The Exhibition**

Avercamp's paintings and drawings will be shown in the intimate Dutch Cabinet Galleries. The works in the exhibition—theatrical settings of life on the ice—reveal a tremendous diversity of subjects. They range from the hardships of winter, such as beggars trying to survive in the cold and women doing laundry in freezing water, to the more delightful possibilities of the cold: finely dressed couples swooping and whirling across the frozen expanse, gentlemen playing colf (a game combining aspects of golf and hockey), and children throwing snowballs and skating, with sleds swishing past. Within these winter scenes lies a record daily life unencumbered by status—as all classes formed one community on the ice.

Avercamp was also an outstanding draftsman who made individual figure studies that he utilized in his painted work as well as in richly colored drawings that he created as finished works of art. The exhibition will include several types of his drawings.

### **The Little Ice Age**

Between 1300 and 1900 northern Europe was affected by a number of extremely severe winters, which often arrived early and lasted well into spring. The period between 1550 and 1650, the time in

which Avercamp lived, is known as the Little Ice Age. Avercamp's first dated winter painting, *A Winter Scene with Skaters near a Castle* (c.1608-1609), follows one of the Little Ice Age's most severe winters, which left an enormous impression on the Dutch population.

Owing to events related to climate change and water pollution, Dutch canals are freezing more infrequently than in the past, decreasing the amount of natural ice for skating. In January 2009, however, canals froze for the first time in 12 years, bringing hundreds of thousands of skaters to the natural ice.

### **Curators and Exhibition Catalogue**

The curators of the exhibition are Pieter Roelofs, curator of 17th-century paintings, and Marijn Schapelhouman, senior curator of drawings, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. The coordinator in Washington is Arthur K. Wheelock Jr., curator of northern baroque painting, National Gallery of Art, Washington.

Published by Rijksmuseum/Uitgeverij Nieuw Amsterdam, the exhibition catalogue is the first monograph on Avercamp in some 25 years. It includes essays by curators Jonathan Bikker, Bianca du Mortier, Pieter Roelofs, Marijn Schapelhouman, Arie Wallert; conservator Ige Verslype (all from the Rijksmuseum); and by historical geographer Adriaan de Kraker, an associate of the Institute for Geoarchaeology and Bioarchaeology at the Free University of Amsterdam.

The 190-page softcover catalogue includes 175 illustrations and is available for purchase in the Gallery Shops. To order, please visit our Web site at <http://shop.nga.gov/>; call (800) 697-9350 or (202) 842-6002; fax (202) 789-3047; or e-mail [mailorder@nga.gov](mailto:mailorder@nga.gov).

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### **[Press Release](#)**

#### ***Hendrick Avercamp (1585-1634): The Little Ice Age***

Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam—November 21, 2009 through February 14, 2010

National Gallery of Art, Washington—March 21 through July 5, 2010



**Hendrick Avercamp, *Winter Games on the Frozen River Ijsel*, c. 1626**

pen and black and gray ink with watercolor, gouache, and graphite on paper  
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Woodner Collection, Gift of Andrea Woodner

In the first exhibition devoted to Dutch landscape artist Hendrick Avercamp (1585–1634), scenes of skating, sleigh rides, and outdoor games on frozen canals and waterways bring to life the lively pastimes and day-to-day bustle of the Golden Age. Displayed in the intimate Dutch Cabinet Galleries, some 15 paintings and 20 drawings capture the harsh winters of the period and the activities they made possible. Avercamp—the first artist to specialize in painting winter landscapes that feature people recreating on the ice—made the "ice scene" a genre in its own right. Within these winter scenes is a social narrative as well: unencumbered by status, all classes formed one community on the ice. Avercamp was also an outstanding draftsman who made individual figure studies that he utilized not only in his painted work but also in compositional drawings.

**The exhibition is organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, and the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.**

**Curator:** Arthur K. Wheelock Jr, curator, northern baroque paintings, National Gallery of Art.

**Catalogue:** The catalogue is the first scholarly publication on Avercamp in some 25 years. Available in March 2010: Gallery Shops, <http://shop.nga.gov/>, or 1-800-697-9350.

**Opening Day Lecture: *Introduction to the Exhibition—Hendrick Avercamp: The Little Ice Age***

Pieter Roelofs, curator of 17th-century paintings, Rijksmuseum, and Bianca du Mortier, curator of dress and textiles, Rijksmuseum, on Sunday, March 21, at 2 pm. Book signing of catalogue follows. First come, first seated. East Building Auditorium.

**Brochure:** An illustrated informational brochure accompanies the exhibition.

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**General Information**

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets at Constitution Avenue NW, and are open Monday

through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. For information call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's Web site at [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov). The Gallery is now on Facebook—become a fan at [www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt](http://www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt).

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering the East and West Buildings. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 x 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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**HENDRICK AVERCAMP EXHIBITION  
COMPLEMENTED BY ARRAY OF PUBLIC  
PROGRAMS, INCLUDING SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
FOR AUDIENCES WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF  
HEARING**

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**Hendrick Avercamp, *Landscape with Windmill*, c. 1610-1620**

oil on panel

Willem Baron van Dedem

A variety of programs, including special offerings for visitors who are deaf or hard of hearing, is planned to celebrate the exhibition *Hendrick Avercamp: The Little Ice Age*, on view at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, from March 21 through July 5, 2010. Avercamp, known to contemporaries as the "Stomme van Kampen" (*Mute of Kampen*), was not able to speak and was possibly deaf. This inspired the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, where the exhibition was on view from November 20, 2009 to February 15, 2010, in collaboration with the Dutch signing center Nederlands Gebarententrum, to introduce new programs for visitors who are deaf or hard of hearing. Similarly, the Gallery and Gallaudet University have developed a joint pilot project of exhibition-related offerings for audiences who are deaf or hard of hearing.

All programs are offered free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis.



### **American Sign Language Tours**

A 45-minute tour of the exhibition in American Sign Language (ASL) will be offered at 1:00 p.m. Thursdays from April 1 through July 1, departing from the West Building Rotunda. Tours will be led by students and alumni from Gallaudet University, and will be interpreted into spoken English.

### **Lectures**

*Skates & Skating in the Netherlands: When There Was Actually Ice!*

Anrie Broere, skate collector

Friday, March 19 at 1:00 p.m.

East Building Auditorium

The lecture will be American Sign Language–interpreted.

*Introduction to the Exhibition—Hendrick Avercamp: The Little Ice Age*

Pieter Roelofs, curator of 17th-century paintings, Rijksmuseum

*Hendrick Avercamp—Fashions on the Ice*

Bianca M. du Mortier, curator of costume, Rijksmuseum

Sunday, March 21, 2:00 p.m.

East Building Auditorium

The lecture will be American Sign Language–interpreted and presented with open captions.

Book signing of *Hendrick Avercamp, Master of the Ice Scene* follows.

### **Gallery Talks**

Regular 60-minute public tours of the exhibition are offered by the adult programs department of the education division. Tours depart from the West Building Rotunda. More information about these and other Gallery Talks is available at [www.nga.gov/programs/galtalks/](http://www.nga.gov/programs/galtalks/). Interpreted tours for visitors who are deaf or hard of hearing may be made available upon request. To make an appointment, please call (202) 842-6247 or the Gallery's Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176 three weeks in advance.

*Skates & Skating in the Netherlands: When There Was Actually Ice!*

Anrie Broere, skate collector

March 19\* and 20\*, 11:00 a.m.

*Hendrick Avercamp: The Little Ice Age*

Eric Denker or J. Russell Sale

March 26, 27\*, 28; April 2, 7, 9, 16\*; May 7\*, 21, 28\*; June 4, 5\*, 7 at 1:00 p.m.



March 30, 31; April 1 at 12:00 noon

\* These Gallery Talks will be interpreted for visitors who are deaf or hard of hearing.

### **Educational Resource**

An educational resource for parents, teachers, and children ages seven and up exploring works by Hendrick Avercamp in the Gallery's collection may be downloaded at [www.nga.gov/kids/scoop-avercamp07.pdf](http://www.nga.gov/kids/scoop-avercamp07.pdf).

### **Gallery Shops**

Published by the Rijksmuseum/Uitgeverij Nieuw Amsterdam, the exhibition catalogue is the first monograph on Avercamp in some 25 years. It includes essays by curators Jonathan Bikker, Bianca du Mortier, Pieter Roelofs, Marijn Schapelhouman, Arie Wallert, and conservator Ige Verslype, all from the Rijksmuseum, and by historical geographer Adriaan de Kraker, an associate of the Institute for Geoarchaeology and Bioarchaeology at the Free University of Amsterdam. The 192-page softcover catalogue includes 175 illustrations and is available for purchase in the Gallery Shops. To order, please visit <http://shop.nga.gov/>; call (800) 697-9350 or (202) 842-6002; fax (202) 789-3047; or e-mail [mailorder@nga.gov](mailto:mailorder@nga.gov).

In addition to the catalogue, the Shops offer an array of exhibition-related books and items, including a poster, puzzle, magnet set, pen, postcard, and postcard-sized Advent calendar.

### **About the Exhibition**

In the first exhibition devoted to Dutch landscape artist Hendrick Avercamp (1585–1634), scenes of ice skating, sleigh rides, and outdoor games on frozen canals and waterways bring to life the lively pastimes and day-to-day bustle of the Golden Age of the Dutch Republic. ***Hendrick Avercamp: The Little Ice Age*** will feature some 14 paintings and 16 drawings that capture the harsh winters of the period and the activities they made possible. A selection of Dutch ice skates will also be on view.

The exhibition was organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, and the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.

Explore related online resources at [www.nga.gov/exhibitions/avercampinfo.shtm](http://www.nga.gov/exhibitions/avercampinfo.shtm).

### **Special Tours, Audio Devices, and Print Materials at the Gallery**

Interpreted tours for visitors who are deaf or hard of hearing are available upon request for tours of the permanent collection as well as for special exhibitions. To make an appointment, please call (202) 842-6247 or the Gallery's Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176 three weeks in advance. Printed scripts of all recorded tours are available at the entrance to some of the special exhibitions. Large headphones, which deliver full-frequency, amplified digital audio sound in a lightweight design, are offered at the recorded-tour desk for special exhibitions that have an Acoustiguide tour and for *The Director's Tour*.

Both East Building auditoriums are equipped with special auditory systems. Receivers and neck loops necessary to access these systems may be borrowed from the information desk located on the ground level of the East Building. The Lecture Hall in the West Building is similarly equipped; receivers and neck loops for this space may be borrowed from the information desk at the 6th Street and Constitution Avenue entrance to the West Building.

Full details about accessibility at the Gallery are available at [www.nga.gov/ginfo/disabled.shtm](http://www.nga.gov/ginfo/disabled.shtm).

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