

Friends of European Art Newsletter

Phoenix Art Museum

Winter 2007 / Issue 34

Hosting Holland

By Tom Loughman, Curator of European Art

Rembrandt and the Golden Age of Dutch Art: Treasures from the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam does far more than put on view a selection of works by the great master from Leiden. The exhibition is nothing short of a hosting of the finest achievements in Dutch art during that culture's heyday. It turns a serious eye toward the many themes of Dutch painting and pairs with paintings works of the decorative arts seen in the pictures. Major sections of the show deal with Dutch landscape, still-life, genre pictures, religious art, and portraiture. A banquet for the eyes and a feast for the mind, the show is an unprecedented exercise in the presentation of Dutch art and culture in the American Southwest. In short, we are hosting Holland.

The project has its roots in a problem turned into opportunity. After the greater part of a century in the home built specifically for the collection, the Rijksmuseum announced at the end of the 1990s that it would be closing for much needed renovations. This was a hard thing to swallow for one of the most visited museums in all Europe. The majority of the collection had never left the city of Amsterdam since its formation (and in many cases, the creation of the objects themselves), and the directors of the Rijksmuseum sought multiple options for placing objects on loan during the multi-year reconstruction of their building. They lent many secondary works to museums throughout Holland. They built a special pavilion—the Phillips Wing—to modern specifications to show a fraction of their "A" list paintings and objects. And they allowed Phoenix Art Museum to organize with them a traveling exhibition to tour North America for one year.

Rembrandt and the Golden Age of Dutch Art:
Treasures from the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

Katz Wing Main Level
January 28 - May 6, 2007

There is no lack of depth in the Rijksmuseum collection, and the show is a remarkably balanced selection of its highlights. Rembrandt is the core—six major paintings and eight of his most exceptional etchings—but the full expanse of Dutch art is its theme. Nothing could be more representative of Dutch landscape than Meindert Hobbema's *Watermill*. No picture can exceed the emotional depths of Rembrandt's *Denial of Saint Peter*. No still-life surpasses Pieter Claesz's breakfast piece in the show. And there is nothing like seeing the full ten feet of Govert Flinck's group portrait of the Klooverniers' Guild.

Come to the show and drink deep of what our esteemed houseguest has to offer this Spring!



The Denial of Saint Peter, Rembrandt van Rijn, 1660. Oil on canvas, 60½ x 66½ in. Collection of the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.

Letter from the President

The opening of the expanded Phoenix Art Museum has brought energy and excitement that you can sense as you enter the grounds. Certainly this was the experience of 72 FEA members who had lunch there on November 18, 2006, on the Grossman Patio overlooking the Dorrance Sculpture Garden. Professor Steven Bule delivered an excellent lecture on the Andrea della Robbia and Italian Renaissance Sculpture.



And more excitement is in store. *Fierce Reality: Italian Masters from 17th Century Naples* currently is on view and we await the opening of *Rembrandt and the Golden Age of Dutch Art: Treasures from the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam*. These exhibitions are the focus of Carnivale, scheduled for February 1, 2007, 6-9pm at Phoenix Art Museum. Exclusive viewings of these shows will highlight this festive event, which also will include 17th century-inspired food and drink, strolling entertainers and a silent auction. Wear your mask and join in the fun! I extend my appreciation to Terri Hardy, Chair, and all of the Party Hosts and Carnivale Committee members who are working to make Carnivale a success.

Educational opportunities abound with lectures by Tony Gully, Jon Seydl, and Barry Bauman. Consult your FEA Program for details.

Friday, the 13th of April, will find some lucky FEA member or guest winning the FEA Golf Tournament at the Camelback Golf Club's Resort Course. Tee time is 8am, followed by lunch, prizes, and a silent auction.

Stay excited! Stay involved! Share your energy with FEA!

-Kathey Plenge

Lectures, parties,
travel, philanthropy...
FEA has it all!

Why not ask your
friends to join us?

For more information,
contact your
Membership Chairs,
Judee Morrison or
Milena Astorga.

Membership

NEW

Rineberg, Gail & Steve
7475-9 Gainey Ranch Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85258
480-483-1540
Gail.R@cox.net

NEW

Runyan, Cindie & Paul
6614 W. Desert Cove
Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85304
623-979-4003

UPDATE

Karlsson, Eva & Kent
Kent (not Ken)
evakarlsson@cfl.rr.com

UPDATE

Klinger, Michelle
12837 N. 61st Place
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

UPDATE

Millman, Nancy & Jeff
nancymillman@hughes.net

UPDATE

Wise, Annie & Joseph
P.O. Box 27522
Tempe, AZ 85285-7522

Wear your mask, festive attire and join us for
Carnivale!



Exclusive Viewing of Exhibitions

*Rembrandt and the Golden Age of Dutch Art:
Treasures from the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam*

*Fierce Reality: Italian Masters from
17th Century Naples*

Trumpeter Fanfares ~ Strolling Entertainment
Carnivale style food and drink ~ Silent Auction

Thursday, February 1, 2007 ~ 6-9 p.m.
Phoenix Art Museum ~ 1625 N. Central Avenue ~ Phoenix

Honorary Chairs: Joan & Jerry Colangelo Family

Tickets \$150 each
or \$75 ages 40 and under

Benefiting Friends of European
Art's Acquisition Fund

For ticket information contact: Margaret Walker 480-595-0933 magatflag@aol.com

Carnivale Reservation Response

GUEST NAMES:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

NUMBER OF TICKETS @\$150 EACH _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS @\$75 EACH _____

REGRETS ARE EXPRESSED WITH MY DONATION OF \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ Make checks payable to Friends of European Art

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECKS PAYABLE TO FEA
CHARGE: VISA MC AMEX DISCOVER
I agree to pay total amount according to card issuer agreement

CARD NUMBER EX. DATE CVC CODE

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD

SIGNATURE

PLEASE RETURN THIS CARD BY JANUARY 20, 2006 TO:
DILYS WILLIAMS - 6037 N. 40TH ST., Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

FEA Calendar of Events

Friday, December 8, 2006

Opening of *Fierce Reality: Italian Masters from 17th Century Naples*

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

7pm - Tony Gully, Ph.D.: *When the Saints Come Marching Home: Religious Painting in Naples and the Catholic Counter Reformation*

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

6pm - Reception for FEA members

7pm - Jon Seydl, Ph.D., Associate Curator, Paintings, J. Paul Getty Museum:
Artemisia Gentileschi: Violence and Competition in Baroque Naples

Sunday, January 28, 2007

Opening of *Rembrandt and the Golden Age of Dutch Art: Treasures from the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam*

Thursday, February 1, 2007

6-9pm – Camivale fundraiser to celebrate the Naples and Rijksmuseum exhibitions

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

7pm - Tony Gully, Ph.D.: *Pride and Prosperity: The Picturing of Dutch Life in Rembrandt's Time*

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Salon at the home of Diana and Mike Finley

Friday, April 13, 2007

8am - Golf Tournament followed by luncheon

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Annual Meeting at the home of Dawn and Jay Schlott

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Joint meeting with Circles. Barry Bauman, Ph.D.: *Unveiling the Painting Beneath the Painting*

May 8-18, 2007

Trip to Russia with Tom Loughman, Ph.D.

*Many FEA events
are open to the
public. Encourage
your friends to
attend, and invite
them to join FEA!*

From the Curator. . .

There is nothing like a good challenge to bring out the best in people. Phoenix Art Museum has met many a challenge of late—from completing a capital and endowment campaign to opening a grand, new space to making outstanding acquisitions while mounting ever more ambitious exhibitions. FEA and its membership continue to help these major efforts and for that you have my sincere gratitude. But a theme that needs repeating is this—we've only just begun. The greatest challenges of a dynamic place such as ours lay in the future. For European art, there remains much to be done and the confrontation of new horizons for the collection and exhibition program.

In December, we opened the first special exhibition in the Steele Gallery since the Museum's expansion with *Fierce Reality: Italian Masters from 17th Century Naples*. That show is the fruit of nearly three years of planning and is a great accomplishment. Its opening weekend was among the best attended in years. Right on the heels of that installation, the European galleries were modified in form so as to better display our holdings and to allow for a special exhibition in part of the space this coming March and April. *A Century of Irish Art: Selections from the Brian Burns Collection* boasts about 40 Irish paintings and over a dozen manuscripts and printed books from the 19th and early 20th centuries. It is the first exhibition of Irish paintings to be mounted in the region, and is drawn from the finest collection in America of this material. We are organizing the show and its catalog—no small task, made perhaps more daunting by its unique character.

In late January, the Museum opens *Rembrandt and the Golden Age of Dutch Art: Treasures from the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam*. It, too, is the product of years of planning, great expense, and the hard work of many people in the United States and Holland. Like *Fierce Reality* (with which it overlaps for five weeks), it celebrates the finest achievements of the 17th century in European art and comes from a national collection. One would be hard pressed to find another museum in the country presenting two European shows concurrently of such refinement, beauty and overall caliber. Phoenix Art Museum's commitment to European art cannot be overstated, nor can the resonance of European art with our community as demonstrated by the stout attendance of such shows. Our challenge lies in deepening the connections between the Museum and those who enjoy these exhibitions. I know FEA stands squarely beside me as we pursue that goal.

With no shortage of activity, I hope to be seeing more of you about the Museum. Bring your family and friends. Come visit with regularity and keep an eye out for what's happening in the FEA calendar as well as the Museum's general programming. This is your Phoenix Art Museum. Enjoy it!

~Tom Loughman

Launching soon:
www.FriendsofEuropeanArt.org