

Dutch and Flemish art at the Musée Calvet in Avignon

Franck Guillaume, Musée Calvet, Avignon

From 25 March 2006 to 5 March 2007 an important exhibition devoted to paintings from the northern schools – Flemish, Dutch and German – was on show at the Musée Calvet in Avignon. The exhibition shed light on a part of the collection about which the public, and more surprisingly art lovers in general, had long been unaware. Indeed, many of the paintings emerged from a long, too long, purgatory that has kept them locked away in the museum's reserves, some since 1920! A group of 90 paintings from the northern schools were selected from among 170 works in storage, providing a complete overview of works by masters from Antwerp, Cologne, Brussels, Haarlem and Amsterdam from the 15th to the 19th centuries. These works had only very recently been restored, studied, reframed and rediscovered. With support from the Calvet Foundation and the Réunion des Musées Nationaux, the Musée Calvet has also published the first *catalogue raisonné* devoted to its northern school paintings. Every work in the collection, from the humblest to the most significant, is listed, reproduced, analyzed and described. Authors: Sylvain Boyer and Franck Guillaume.

The Musée Calvet's exhibition included a.o. the following paintings:

Unknown Flemish master, <i>The carnival</i>	Abraham Bloemaert, <i>Christ carrying the cross and Saint Peter freed by the angels</i> (collection Jérôme Sauvan).
Unknown Flemish master, <i>The village wedding</i>	Paulus Lesire (attributed), <i>Descent from the cross</i>
Unknown Flemish master, <i>The blind leading the blind</i>	Van Noordt, <i>Crucifixion</i>
(Workshop of) Frans Francken II, <i>Croesus showing his treasures to Solon</i>	Jacob Adrien Backer, <i>Child with soap</i>
Osias Beert, <i>Still life with lemons and pomegranates in a Chinese porcelain bowl</i> (Puech collection)	Craesbeeck, <i>Smoker and death</i>
Andries van Aertvelt, <i>The storm</i>	Wulfraet, <i>Drinkers at the table</i>
Pieter Molyn, <i>Landscape</i>	Dusart, <i>Smoker lost in thought</i>
Guillam Dubois, <i>Landscape</i>	Jan Molenaer, <i>A man undergoing an operation on his foot</i>
Aert van der Neer, <i>Village street in the moonlight</i>	Franciscus Carree, <i>Cook</i>
Van der Stoffe, <i>Battle scene</i>	<i>View of the Campo Vaccino</i>
Jan Martszen, <i>Attack on a convoy</i>	<i>Peasants going to mass</i>
Jacob van Oost (attributed), <i>Portrait of a young man</i>	Jan Miel, <i>A water buffalo</i>
Lucas Franchoy the Younger, <i>Portrait of an ecclesiastic</i>	Adriaen van der Kabel, <i>Christ on the road to Emmaus</i>
Jan Cossiers, <i>Holy family</i> (Puech collection)	Van Bloemen, <i>Arcadian landscape with Shepherds and bathers</i>
Simon de Vos, <i>The multiplication of the loaves and The prodigal son</i>	Jan Weenix, <i>Child with a dog</i>
	Jan Peeter Verdussen, <i>Scene at the blacksmith's</i>
	Michiel van Musscher, <i>The interrupted lute lesson</i>