The versatile painter, poet, courtier and European traveller Samuel van Hoogstraten (1627-1678), one of Rembrandt’s pupils, has received much scholarly attention in the last two decades. Whereas older historians allotted him a marginal role as a minor figure in his master’s studio, he is now recognized for his central position in the world of art and letters in the Dutch Golden Age. This new evaluation is mainly due to careful studies of his treatise on painting, Inleyding tot de Hooge Schoole der Schilderkonst (Introduction to the Academy of Painting, 1678). His book has been mined for unique insights not only into Rembrandt’s working methods but also into profound problems relative to Dutch art and culture, such as pictorial realism, imitation and illusion, the rise of landscape and still life and the status of the ‘learned artist’. Whereas traditional Rembrandt scholarship seems to have hit upon the limits posed by the available documents on the artist, the work of pupils like Van Hoogstraten keeps offering new possibilities for research. Recently, Van Hoogstraten’s book was given a place in the canon of Key Texts for the Cultural History of the Low Countries.

This conference will be the first meeting of Van Hoogstraten specialists from various countries, who will bring their different approaches and various scholarly traditions to bear on his art and writing.

9:15 – 9:45 Welcome and registration
9:45 – 10:00 Prof. Eric Jan Sluijter (University of Amsterdam): Opening
10:00 – 10:40 Dr. Jan Blanc (Université de Lausanne): Van Hoogstraten’s Theory of Theory
10:40 – 10:55 Coffee and tea
10:55 – 11:35 Dr. Paul Taylor (The Warburg Institute, London): Hoogstraten’s ‘Zwier’
11:35 – 12:15 Dr. Hans-Jörg Czech (Stadtmuseum Wiesbaden): Samuel van Hoogstraten’s Guidelines for Artistic Success and the Reception of Northern Netherlandish Art in Germany in the 18th Century
12:15 – 13:15 Lunch
14:35 – 14:50 Coffee and tea
14:50 - 15:30 Dr. Herman Colenbrander (independent scholar, Amsterdam): A Pledge of Marital Domestic Bliss: Samuel van Hoogstraten’s Peepshow in the National Gallery, London
15:30 – 16:10 Dr. Thijs Weststeijn (University of Amsterdam): Van Hoogstraten as a Rhetorician
16:10 – 16:45 General discussion

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