

Friends of CODART

Newsletter, Summer 2018

Dear CODART Friends,

This summer, CODART celebrates a special anniversary. For exactly twenty years, CODART has been bringing together an ever-expanding group of curators – some 700 by now. What they share is a passion for the Old Masters. CODART connects them by organizing congresses and expert meetings, through its website www.codart.nl, and through its digital magazine, the CODART eZine. These activities generate new insights, forge interesting relationships, and help to deepen our fund of knowledge. It is often thanks to CODART that new ideas are developed for exhibitions and that curators come together and agree on important loans for shows around the world.

The Friends of CODART are an active part of that network. Every year, a number of places are made available for Patrons for participation in congresses and other activities. This provides our Friends with immediate access to hundreds of museum curators worldwide.

The proven commitment of our Friends is essential to CODART's existence. It is their attendance at our activities that stimulates the cross-pollination between curators, collectors, and dealers. The Friends make it possible to reduce the members' congress fee by a full €100, which enables more curators to take part in CODART's core activities. The renewed website, produced with the Friends' financial support, is indispensable to those seeking rapid, well-organized digital access to collections, museums, curators, exhibitions, and publications. It was the Friends' contribution that encouraged the Dioraphte Foundation and the Mondriaan Fund to come on board and lend financial support to the renewal of the website.

CODART makes a valuable contribution to the worldwide exchange of knowledge on the Old Masters of the Low Countries. To safeguard the quality of our activities, it is essential that we increase our financial strength. We are therefore looking for Friends who would like to commit to supporting CODART as Patrons. Are you willing to help us? All you need to do is to pass on the name of one potential candidate from your network by e-mail to friends@codart.nl and CODART will contact the person in question.



Michaelina Wautier (1604-1689), *Portrait of Two Girls as the Saints Agnes and Dorothy*, n.d., Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp. This painting was part of the exhibition *Zuiderburen* at the Mauritshuis in fall 2017

This year we are once again organizing special activities for the Friends of CODART, as you will see in the CODART calendar on the back of this Newsletter. You can also read a report on the most recent Patrons Salon, which took place in Maastricht in March. We were delighted to see so many of you there. We hope to see you again soon!

Titia Vellenga
Chair, Friends of CODART Foundation

Gerdien Verschoor
Director, CODART

Board of the Friends of CODART Foundation

Titia Vellenga, Owner of Artara and Former PR & Marketing Manager at TEFAF (chair)

Till-Holger Borchert, Director of Musea Brugge, Bruges

Bob Haboltdt, Director of Haboltdt&Co. and Pictura, New York, Paris and Amsterdam

Norbert Middelkoop, Curator of Paintings, Prints and Drawings, Amsterdam Museum

Rob Vellekoop, Collector, Rotterdam

Friends Activities

2017-2018

Patrons Salon Maastricht

“To Share or Not to Share My Private Collection?” That was the key question addressed at the Patrons Salon at the TEFAF in Maastricht last March. For many centuries, works of art by Dutch and Flemish masters were collected by royals, nobles, and the well-to-do burgher class. In our own time too, individuals with a passion for Dutch and Flemish Old Masters continue to collect their work. How do they go about it? How do they define the significance of their collection? Above all: how do they share their collection with the general public? These were the questions posed by the moderator of this morning session, Marjan Scharloo, who is the director of Teylers Museum – the oldest museum in the Netherlands – and member of the board of CODART. The questions led to an animated debate, on a subject that was close to the heart of everyone present.

During the Patrons Salon the audience listened to three talks, by two collectors and a curator, each of whom has devised a different, highly personal way of allowing his or her collection to shine.

Ilone Kremer (Houston, Amsterdam) introduced the Kremer Museum, which she recently launched together with her husband George: an innovative concept that combines cutting-edge technology with world-class masterpieces. The museum can be accessed using Virtual Reality (VR) technology. It boasts over seventy seventeenth-century Dutch and Flemish paintings from their own private collection, by masters including Gerrit Dou, Ferdinand Bol, and Michael Sweerts. The new 3D technology makes it possible for viewers to study the smallest detail of the artworks, and even to examine the backs of the paintings. Placing the entire museum online in this way makes it accessible to people who never visit a museum.



Paul Russell and the Kremers continuing the discussion



Marjan Scharloo, Director of Teylers Museum in Haarlem

Ilone showed us a short video in which a class of schoolchildren in the Bronx was invited to visit the virtual museum. The young kids were amazed, and with the big VR goggles on, they “roamed” around the museum open-mouthed.

Thomas S. Kaplan and Daphne Recanati Kaplan, owners of The Leiden Collection in New York, have adopted a completely different approach. Lara Yeager-Crasselt, the collection’s curator, gave an impassioned talk in which she explained why The Leiden Collection tours the world, including what may seem less obvious destinations, such as China and the United Arab Emirates. What kind of reactions do “our” Old Masters elicit among the visitors in these countries? Kaplan’s credo is that “great art brings light – in a metaphorical sense, and sometimes, in the case of Rembrandt, also literally. Like Shakespeare and Bach, Rembrandt is a game-changing artist, a bridge-builder who connects cultures. The universal values in his work show what makes us human beings.”



Lara Yeager-Crasselt during her presentation at the Patrons Salon

The final speaker was Paul Russell, Senior Partner at Russell Lawyers, B.V., from Amsterdam, a private collector who notes the growing challenges facing loaning traffic and is often reminded of a comment by

Abraham Bredius (1934): “Ik heb een broertje dood aan al dat heen en weer gestuur van schilderijen.” (“I can’t stand all that sending paintings back and forth all the time.”) He focused mainly on the risks involved in sending artworks to museum on loan.

The brief statements by the speakers were followed by an animated debate with the audience. What are the arguments for and against lending out items from your valuable art collection? How should you share these works of art with the public? The debate generated plenty of material for another Patrons Salon, which is already scheduled to take place in Maastricht on Saturday, 16 March 2019. You are welcome to join us next year. Save the date!



Members of the audience taking part in the discussion

“Nocturne” at the Mauritshuis

In the evening of 5 October 2017 the Mauritshuis organized a special opening, a “Nocturne”, exclusively for the Friends of CODART and for guests invited by the Flemish Representation in The Hague, revolving around the exhibition *Zuiderburen* (“Neighbors: Portraits from Flanders 1400-1700”). Between 1400 and 1700, nobles and wealthy burghers were eager to have themselves immortalized by the leading Flemish artists of their time. These portraits have retained their impressive vitality to this day. Many of them are painted with such superb skill that they still, so many centuries later, seem full of life. Who were the subjects of these portraits? How were they depicted, and why? And what was the artist’s role in making such decisions? What was the economic context? Edwin Buijsen, head of the collections of the Mauritshuis and curator of this exhibition, and art collector Fernand Huts, CEO of the multinational company Katoen Natie, based in Antwerp, provided a few fascinating details, after which the guests were invited to view the exhibition. The evening concluded with drinks and networking at a festive social gathering hosted by the Flemish Representation.

Find more information about the activities of the Friends of CODART Foundation on www.codart.nl/friends

Make an extra donation to CODART!

Driven by their appreciation of CODART’s work, Bob Haboltd and Rob Vellekoop, two of the earliest Patrons for Life – and board members of the Friends of CODART Foundation – decided to make extra donations of €5,000. This means that they have now raised their total contribution to the sums donated to CODART by the current Patrons for Life (€15,000). We would like to draw your attention to the possibility of likewise making an extra donation to CODART, a gift that would be particularly appreciated in this festive jubilee year, in which CODART marks its twentieth anniversary.



Bob Haboltd

Your donation is tax-deductible. For more information, you may contact us at friends@codart.nl or take a look on our website www.codart.nl/friends.

CODART wishes to express its thanks here to Bob and Rob for their extra donations. Their gifts will help to make Dutch and Flemish Old Masters more visible and more accessible to an international public in the years to come.



Rob Vellekoop

Making an extra donation to mark CODART’s jubilee year would provide a marvelous boost to the organization as it celebrates this landmark, and would also help to encourage others who support CODART or who are intending to do so. We therefore very much hope that you will respond positively to our request.

Museum of Fine Arts Boston Establishes Center for Netherlandish Art

Rose-Marie and Eijk de Mol van Otterloo and Susan and Matthew Weatherbie, all Patrons of CODART, have made a commitment to give their exceptional collections of seventeenth-century Dutch and Flemish art to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston (MFA). The Boston-area collectors plan to give the MFA not only their art collections, but also funding to establish a Center for Netherlandish Art at the MFA, which is scheduled to launch in 2020. The Center will be dedicated to preserving, studying and sharing art from the seventeenth-century Netherlands and Belgium in the United States and abroad. In addition, the Van Otterloos have promised to donate the Haverkamp-Begemann Library – a major research library of more than 20,000 monographs, catalogues and rare books – to serve as a resource for the Center. We congratulate the Van Otterloos and the Weatherbies with this wonderful initiative.

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Elsbeth van Tets
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TEFAF (The European Fine Arts Fair)

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RKD - Netherlands Institute for Art History

These museums support **CODART** as institutional member:

Centraal Museum, Utrecht | Denver Art Museum, Denver | Drents Museum, Assen | Fondation Custodia, Collection Frits Lugt, Paris | Glasgow Museums, Glasgow | Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge | King Baudouin Foundation, Brussels | Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna | Mauritshuis, The Hague | Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York | Musea Brugge | Museum De Lakenhal, Leiden | Museum Het Rembrandthuis, Amsterdam | Nationalmuseum, Stockholm | Patrimonio Nacional, Madrid | Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam | Royal Łazienki Museum, Warsaw | Het Scheepvaartmuseum, Amsterdam | Stedelijk Museum Alkmaar | Szépművészeti Múzeum, Budapest | Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam | Vlaamse Kunstcollectie

Do you also want to support **CODART**? Please send an e-mail to friends@codart.nl or enlist via www.codart.nl/friends

CODART Calendar

2019

1 February

BRAFA

A special day at the BRAFA Art Fair in Brussels offered to the Friends of **CODART** by BRAFA including a BRAFA Art Talk by a **CODART** member

16 March

Patrons Salon

An exclusive lecture or exchange of expertise in the field of the Old Masters, during TEFAF Maastricht

2-4 June

CODART 22 Congress Berlin

The yearly **CODART** congress in 2019 will be organized in conjunction with the Gemäldegalerie, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and the Bode Museum in Berlin. A (limited) number of tickets is available for Patrons and Business Sponsors

Please consult www.codart.nl for up-to-date information about **CODART** events