



A “new” Vermeer in Dresden

From the past, the Dresden Gemäldegalerie had been promoting a research project on Vermeer's "Girl Reading a Letter at an Open Window", and an interim report was announced.

A “new” Vermeer in the process of restoration is exhibited from May 8 until June 16.

Previous x-ray examinations indicated that a picture of a naked Cupid in the painting had been overpainted. Today, new laboratory tests have conclusively determined that the overpainting was not by Vermeer’s hand.

The Hata Stichting Foundation supports this project.

Mass media from all over the world has reported on this announcement at once.

ZDF 07.05.2019

Experts have made a surprising discovery in the restoration of a famous painting by Johannes Vermeer: The "Girl Briefling" was painted over, but only after his death.

BBC 07.05.2019

Previously unseen Cupid revealed in Vermeer masterpiece

Experts at a German art gallery say an internationally renowned painting, Girl Reading a Letter at an Open Window by Johannes Vermeer, was significantly altered after his death.

While restoring the masterpiece in Dresden, they uncovered a long lost Cupid which had been painted over.



MDR 07.05.2019

Restorer exposes painted Vermeer painting with scalpel

When the Dresden restorers are finished with Jan Vermeer's famous painting of the "letter senders" in 2020, the picture will be presented as it has never been seen in Dresden - and most recently centuries ago in Delft.

The world-famous painting "Brieflesende Mädchen am offenen Fenster" by Jan Vermeer is currently being overhauled. The background should have been painted over by another artist. The Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden discovered this during restoration work. In the future, the image of the Delft artist is to be seen again as it had left its studio 350 years ago. When the painting came to Dresden 83 years later - in 1742 - the background of the painting had already changed.

The Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden had consulted with an international commission of experts and decided to remove the overcoated layer, said the director of Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister, Stephan Koja. The experts assume, therefore, that the color coat was applied a few decades after the creation of the painting (around 1657-1659) by an unknown painter. That the background was painted over had already been noticed in earlier X-ray examinations. Now, laboratory tests unequivocally proved that this layer of paint was not Vermeer's.

What does one see in the picture - and when?

Vermeer had painted a profile of a young woman standing in front of an open window holding a letter in her hand. In the known version, a greenish curtain fills the picture on the right. This curtain partially conceals a naked boy who appears on the wall in the background (see photo on the upper right). The Dresden restorer Christoph Schölzel is currently exposing the boy with a fine scalpel under a microscope. He wears the layer mechanically. According to museum information, the boy's head and shoulders can already be seen.

The building of the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister in Semperbau is currently being renovated and is only partially accessible. The reopening is scheduled for December - but without the "letter-reading girl". The picture will be restored for at least another year.

On Wednesday, May 8, an exhibition will be opened to restore the "Brieflesende Mädchen" in the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister. It is open until June 16, every day except Mondays from 10am to 6pm.