

# Dutch Masterpieces at The Met

October 16, 2018 – October 4, 2020  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
(The Met Fifth Avenue)

(From [The Metropolitan Museum of Art Official Website](#))



Bellona, 1633  
Rembrandt (Rembrandt van Rijn)



The Toilet of Bathsheba, 1643  
Rembrandt (Rembrandt van Rijn)



Exhibitions / *In Praise of Painting: Dutch Masterpieces at The Met*

## Exhibition Overview

Dutch paintings of the seventeenth century—the Golden Age of Rembrandt, Hals, and Vermeer—have been a highlight of The Met collection since the Museum's founding purchase in 1871. This exhibition brings together some of the Museum's greatest paintings to present this remarkable chapter of art history in a new light. Through sixty-seven works of art organized thematically, *In Praise of Painting* orients visitors to key issues in seventeenth-century Dutch culture—from debates about religion and conspicuous consumption to painters' fascination with the domestic lives of women.

The exhibition provides a fresh perspective on the canon and parameters of the Dutch Golden Age by uniting paintings from Benjamin Altman's bequest, the Robert Lehman Collection, and the Jack and Belle Linsky Collection. Works typically displayed separately in the Museum's galleries—such as Rembrandt's Gerard de Lairesse and Lairesse's own Apollo and Aurora—are presented side by side, producing a visually compelling narrative about the tensions between realism and idealism during this period. The presentation also provides the opportunity to conserve and display rarely exhibited paintings, including Margareta Haverman's A Vase of Flowers—one of only two known paintings by the artist and the only painting by an early modern Dutch woman currently in The Met collection. The exhibition takes its title from one of the period's major works of art theory, Philips Angel's *The Praise of Painting* (1642), a pioneering defense of realism in art.

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The exhibition is made possible by the HATA Foundation Fund.

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Herman Doomer (ca. 1595–1650), 1640  
Rembrandt (Rembrandt van Rijn)



Hendrickje Stoffels (1626–1663), mid-1650s  
Rembrandt (Rembrandt van Rijn)



Flora, ca. 1654  
Rembrandt (Rembrandt van Rijn)