

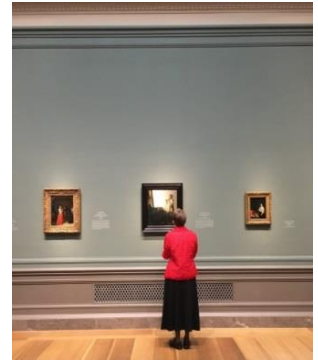
National Gallery of Art, Washington

Exhibition

Vermeer and the Masters of Genre Painting: Inspiration and Rivalry

October 22, 2017 – January 21, 2018

This landmark exhibition examines the artistic exchanges among Johannes Vermeer and his contemporaries from the mid-1650s to around 1680, when they reached the height of their technical ability and mastery of genre painting, or depictions of daily life. The introduction of quiet scenes unfolding in private household spaces and featuring elegant ladies and gentlemen was among the most striking innovations of Dutch painting of the Golden Age, a time of unparalleled innovation and prosperity. The exhibition brings together nearly 70 works by Vermeer and his fellow painters, including Gerard ter Borch, Gerrit Dou, Pieter de Hooch, Gabriel Metsu, Frans van Mieris, Caspar Netscher, and Jan Steen, who lived in various towns throughout the Dutch Republic, from Delft and Deventer to Amsterdam and Leiden.



Juxtaposing paintings related by theme, motif, and composition, the exhibition explores how these artists inspired, rivaled, surpassed, and pushed each other to greater artistic achievement. The exhibition features 10 paintings by Vermeer (many of which have not been seen in the United States since the Gallery's 1995–1996 exhibition *Johannes Vermeer*), including *The Lacemaker* (c. 1669–1670, Musée du Louvre, Paris) and *The Love Letter* (c. 1669–1670, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam). A fully illustrated catalog features essays by the curators and essays and entries by a team of international scholars.

Organization: Organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin, and the Musée du Louvre, Paris.

Sponsors: BP is proud to be a major sponsor of this exhibition as part of its support of the arts in the U.S. and U.K. The exhibition is also generously supported by the Hata Foundation, Dr. Mihael and Mrs. Mahy Polymeropoulos, and The Exhibition Circle of the National Gallery of Art.



The exhibition in Washington is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

Other venues: Musée du Louvre, Paris, February 22–May 22, 2017

National Gallery of Ireland,

Dublin, June 17–September 17, 2017



This book is published on the occasion of the exhibition:

VERMEER ET LES MAÎTRES DE LA PEINTURE DE GENRE
MUSÉE DU LOUVRE, PARIS
30 February – 23 May 2017

VERMEER AND THE MASTERS OF GENRE PAINTING:
Inspiration and Rivalry
NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND, DUBLIN
27 June – 17 September 2017
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, WASHINGTON
22 October 2017 – 21 January 2018

The exhibition is organised by the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin, the National Gallery of Art, Washington, and the Musée du Louvre, Paris.

The website www.nmreactivevermeer.org has been developed in conjunction with this exhibition. It presents research data not included in this catalogue and serves as an interactive research platform on Dutch genre painters active in the period 1650–75.

EXHIBITION PARTNER



Additional support from



We would like to thank Dr Mihael and Mrs Mahy Polymeropoulos, and The Exhibition Circle of the National Gallery of Art for their generous support of the exhibition in Washington.

We also acknowledge the following for their generous support of the preparatory research for the exhibition:

Thomas S. Kaplan and Dafna Recanati Kaplan
Otto Naumann Ltd
The Lee and Juliet Folger Fund
Johnny van Haefen Ltd

Citation:

<https://www.nga.gov/exhibitions/2017/vermeer-and-the-masters-of-genre-painting.html>

[https://twitter.com/ngadc\(10/17\)](https://twitter.com/ngadc(10/17)) [https://twitter.com/ngadc\(10/22\)](https://twitter.com/ngadc(10/22)) [https://twitter.com/ngadc\(10/22\)](https://twitter.com/ngadc(10/22))

Adriaan E. Waiboer, Blaise Ducos. *Vermeer and the Masters of Genre Painting: Inspiration and Rivalry*. New Haven: Yale UP, 2017.