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Research interests:
painting ensembles
historical interiors
digital and 3D-reconstructions of
painting ensembles

Historical Interior Paintings

As part of the NWO Incentives scheme vidi project *From Isolation to Coherence. an Integrated Technical, Visual and Historical Study of 17th and 18th Century Dutch Painting Ensembles* (2012-2017) 14 painting ensembles in the Netherlands have been investigated.

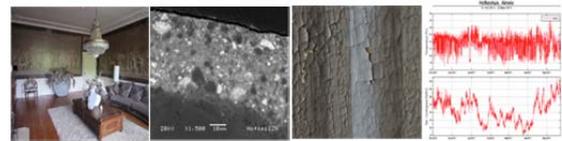


We studied a.o. Gerard de Lairese's tripartite ceiling painting (1672) (a) made for the house at the Herengracht (nr. 446) of the Amsterdam burgomaster Andries de Graeff. It appeared that these paintings had been completely revised. It was shown that these changes were carried out by De Lairese in the Disaster Year 1672, in order to update the iconography to the actual political situation. For example, at first, the figure of Concord held a bunch of seven arrows, referring to the seven provinces of the Dutch Republic (c infrared image). Subsequently, three arrows were painted out, in order to refer to the actual situation of the Disaster Year when three provinces had been conquered (b).



The original appearance of the paintings was digitally reconstructed, on the basis of our technical findings. Also the original placement and context was digitally reconstructed on the basis of our research into the building archeology: compare today's setting at the Peace Palace in The Hague (a) and the reconstruction of the original setting at the Herengracht (b).

These reconstructions will form the basis of 3D printed reconstructions in collaboration with the sections *Materials in Art and Archeology* (MSE) and *Design of Construction* (AE+T)



Climate studies were carried out at the painting ensemble in the Hofkeshuis (1778), Almelo. For the first time the degradation of lead white pigment in mature oil paint could here be used as an internal marker for the degree of lead soap formation and hence the chemical degradation of oil paint.

Key publications 2015:

M. van Eikema Hommes, R. Lambour et. al. 'The secret youth of Dirck Leeuw: a hidden portrait by Govert Flinck discovered', *The Rijksmuseum Bulletin* 2016, nr. 1

M. van Eikema Hommes, P. Bakker, 'A Triumph With No Battle: The Significance of a Painted Wall Hanging (1778) in the Hofkeshuis in Almelo', *Oud Holland* 2016, nrs. 2/3

P. Bakker and M. van Eikema Hommes, 'The Coarse Painter and His Position in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Dutch Decorative Painting', H. Evans, K. Muir (eds.), *Technology & practice: studying 18th-century paintings and works of art on paper*, Copenhagen 2015, pp. 70-82.

M. van Eikema Hommes, L. Speleers *Oranjezaal, Catalogus en Documentatie*, Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie (RKD), <http://oranjezaal.rkdmonographs.nl/>