

FAMILY GUIDE

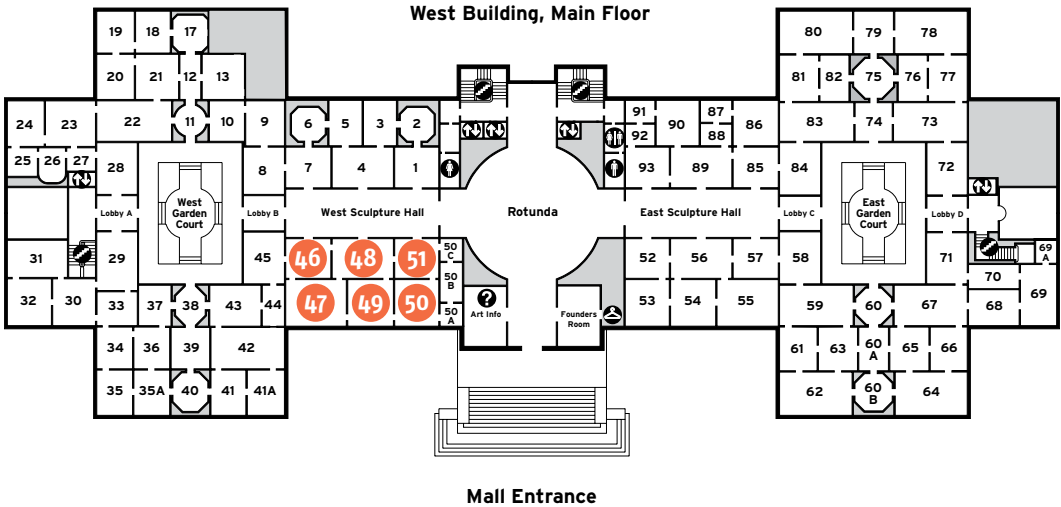
Dutch Art at the National Gallery of Art



ages
6 and up



Welcome to the National Gallery's Collection of Dutch Art



Follow this booklet for an experience in “artful looking.” **Cues** and **questions** encourage group discussions that turn looking into learning. Share and compare opinions as you look at the art on display.

Remember to explore paintings with your eyes only; do not touch. If you stand about three feet away from the art, you will have a perfect view.

GALLERIES

51

48

46



Pronk and Portraits

Beware. Looks can be deceiving. Seventeenth-century Dutch people wanted to appear modest, not showy, and the dress code for adults was black. Still, they displayed luxury—**pronk**—in sly ways. Look carefully at portraits of Dutch people in Galleries 51, 48, and 46.

Find examples of

- black clothes** made of wool, satin, or velvet
- starched **white linen** and **lace** on collars and cuffs
- felt hats** (usually black, gray, or tan), made by hand from beaver skins and very expensive
- stylishly mussed long hair** on men (very cool at the time)
- bright colors**—young men and women, unmarried soldiers, and children could wear brightly colored outfits

Choose words you think describe the subjects' style.

gloomy **playful** **serious** **decked out** _____ **other**

Who revealed more *pronk* in their portraits—men or women? **Study** details such as jewelry, leather, fur, and feathers. Remember, the Dutch often avoided the appearance of luxury because of their belief in modesty. **Compare** your choices.

GALLERIES

47 49



A Dutch windmill



Landschappen (Landscapes)

The Netherlands hugs the sea and sits mostly at or below sea level, so the Dutch turned their northern, watery environment to their advantage. They built windmills and dikes to control the water and to create land for farms and pastures, and canals to provide transportation routes across the country.

Search for clues among the paintings in Galleries 47 and 49 to find out what your life would have been like in the seventeenth century.

Which animals might you have at home?

dog sheep chicken llama pet bird cow pig

How would you get your cow across the river?

What creates power to grind wheat for your bread?

hint: wind

How would you travel to a friend's house or school?

boat horse walk ice-skate sled

Weather Watch! The Netherlands is located on the North Sea between Belgium and Germany. What do the broad skies in Dutch landscapes tell you about the weather?

sunny warm chance of rain cloudy cool windy

GALLERY

50



Stilleven (Still Life)

Paintings of Dutch food, table settings, and flowers are known as **stilleven**. Dutch artists tried to make paintings of such objects appear lifelike, even though it sometimes meant exaggerating textures. And for the sake of art, they often paired items that would not be together in nature—such as flowers that bloom at different times of the year.

Find the still-life painting in Gallery 50 that looks most lifelike to you. **Defend** your choice using evidence such as

- exact details:** veins on leaves, light glinting on metal plates, fruit fuzz
- textures:** scaly reptile skin, downy feathers, silky flower petals
- setting:** indoor, outdoor, tabletop, display in a vase

Look at the paintings and decide what you would choose for a snack right now.

ham **olives** **peaches** **grapes** **beer***

plums **bread** **oysters** (seasoned with vinegar!)

*Adults drank beer, and children drank a watered-down version because industries such as bleaching and dyeing cloth polluted Dutch waterways.

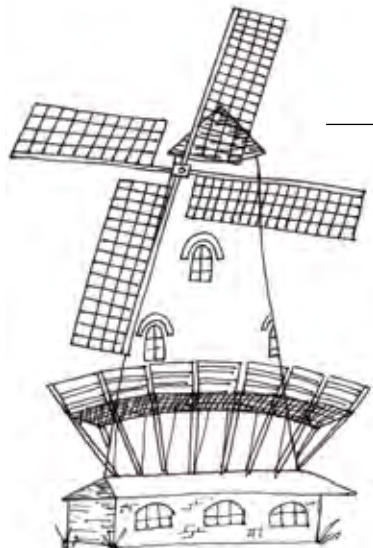
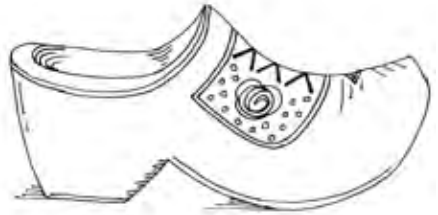
Before you leave this gallery, see if you can **find**

- tulips**—the Netherlands’ symbolic flowering bulbs
- fish**—oysters, herring, sardines, native to this country of waterways and seas

Vergelijk en Kleur

Dutch and English are closely related languages. Match (*vergelijk*) these Dutch words to the pictures here, and then color (*kleur*) them in!

- A boot
- B bever
- C tulp
- D molen
- E klomp
- F delftse tegel



Captions

All images in this booklet are details from the following works of art:

Cover

Hendrick Avercamp, *A Scene on the Ice*, c. 1625, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund

Jan van Huysum, *Still Life with Flowers and Fruit*, c. 1715, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Patrons' Permanent Fund and Gift of Philip and Lizanne Cunningham

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Aelbert Cuyp, *Lady and Gentleman on Horseback*, c. 1655, reworked 1660/1665, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Widener Collection

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Rembrandt van Rijn, *The Windmill*, 1641, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of R. Horace Gallatin

Aelbert Cuyp, *Lady and Gentleman on Horseback*, c. 1655, reworked 1660/1665, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Widener Collection

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Jan van Huysum, *Still Life with Flowers and Fruit*, c. 1715, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Patrons' Permanent Fund and Gift of Philip and Lizanne Cunningham

Abraham Mignon, *Still Life with Fruit, Fish, and a Nest*, c. 1675, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. H. John Heinz III

Jan Davidsz de Heem, *Vase of Flowers*, c. 1660, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Andrew W. Mellon Fund

Back Cover

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Abraham Mignon, *Still Life with Fruit, Fish, and a Nest*, c. 1675, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. H. John Heinz III

Rembrandt van Rijn, *The Mill*, 1645/1648, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Widener Collection

Hendrick Avercamp, *A Scene on the Ice*, c. 1625, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund

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Tulip bulbs were first imported to the Netherlands from Turkey. Striped tulips got their patterning from a virus.



The Dutch ate a lot of fish, even for breakfast, as their seas and rivers were full of them. Here, a catch of herring.



Nine thousand mills (*molen*) dotted the Netherlands in the 1600s. Using wind or water for power, mills crushed and cut raw materials to make all kinds of items – from flour and mustard to paint and timber.

With many waterways frozen in winter, Dutch children often skated and played on the ice. *Kolf* – a cross between hockey and golf – was a favorite game. Its goal was to hit a target on the ice, such as a pole, in the fewest strokes.

