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Galería de Arte

Soraya Cartategui

Dear friends,

This June the gallery presents you with this delicate interior scene by the Dutch painter Gerhard van Steenwijck.

Best wishes,
Soraya Cartategui



Gerhard van Steenwijck

(Active in Delft between 1640-1660)

“Interior with young woman and his maiden”

Oil on canvas

50,3 x 37,1 cm. (19,8 x 14,6 in.)

Signed 'G v. steenwyck'

1650 ca.

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Dutch painter specialized in still lifes and genre scenes, among which we find especially interiors. The documentation about his life is very uncertain, it is known that he was active between 1640 and 1660, probably in the city of Delft where he would be related to the brothers Harmen Steenwijck (1612-1656) and Pieter Steenwijck (1615-1666). He could have been a student of Evert van Aelst (1602-1657).

There are many unknowns about the life of this magnificent painter, what is evident is the high quality of his work, which is largely unexplored.

His style is very similar to that of Anthonie Palamedesz (1601-1673) with whom he would surely coincide in the city of Delft. Friendly portraits of everyday life in the Dutch Golden Age, where it perfectly captures the personality of those portrayed. In addition, it uses a chromatic range starring soft colors that together with the use of light and chiaroscuro surround the work with a halo of naturalness and serenity.



This beautiful interior by Gerhard van Steenwijck shows a scene from everyday life where a young woman from high society arranges herself helped by her maid.

At the center of the composition, the lady appears seated in a wooden chair topped with bronze lion heads symbolizing protection, very typical of the Dutch seventeenth century. Dressed in rich clothing, as proof of her social status, with delicate brocade and gold thread

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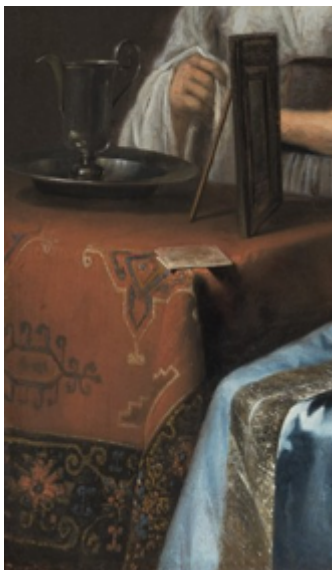

decorations crown each side of her face. With her right hand she holds a fine veil, richly painted with delicate transparencies, to be placed by her maid. In addition it also carries a small mirror to ensure that it is well groomed, while

looking directly at the viewer. We see the author's mastery in capturing the personality of the portrayed.

Behind us we find the maiden, who gives the lady a tender look. Her face is much rougher than that of the young woman, with an almost cartoonish gesture, very typical of genre works of this period. With a cloth in her hands, she prepares to clean the objects and thus finish grooming the young woman. There is a clear social class difference between the two.



The protagonist, with her beautiful and elegant clothes and the maiden, who wears a humble skirt with a simple white cotton blouse.

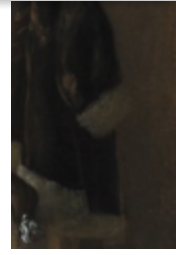


The table covered with an oriental rug, richly colored and highly detailed, with drawings very similar to those found in exotic carpets from the 17th century, highly valued among the high bourgeoisie and nobility. Above it is a letter from some suitor of the beautiful lady. Likewise on the table we appreciate a wash basin to clean and a mirror with which you can check the result of your hairstyle.

The neutral background draws attention to the wonderful scene in the

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ornaments on the sheepskin sleeves.



As for the color range used by Steenwijck, it is characterized by soft, blue, ocher and earthy tones that give the work a lot of privacy. The detail and realism when dealing with his works is really extraordinary, taking care of the details to capture the attention of the viewer.

All this allows us to get closer to the daily life of high society in the 17th century in Holland. In all the paintings that this type of interior theme appears, the author conveys a feeling of kindness, creating beautiful and pleasant scenes highly valued in the art market.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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J. Bol, *Pintores holandeses del siglo XVII cerca de los Grandes Maestros. Paisajes y bodegones*. Múnich, 1982, p. 340.

J. Hans, *Bodegones y piezas de animals. Pintura holandesa del siglo XVII de la colección SOR Rusche*.

PROVENANCE

Sr. M. Kahn Collection, Paris (France).

MUSEUMS

There are works by Gerhard van Steenwijck in the museum collections of the following cities, among others: Kurpfälzisches Museum, Heidelberg (Germany).

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