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Galería de Arte

# Soraya Cartategui

Dear friends,

In this month of May the gallery presents you this beautiful panel from the interesting Dutch painter, Johan Baeck.

Best wishes,  
Soraya Cartategui



**Johan Baeck**

(Active in Utrecht from 1635 ca. – 1655 ca. )

“Pastoral portrait”

Oil on panel

52,4 cm x 45,5 cm. (20,63 x 17,91 in.)

Johan Baeck Dutch painter of the school of Utrecht. We do not know much about his life, we know he worked as a painter for a short period in the city of Utrecht. He was a career military man, and this was his true profession. Despite his fondness for painting, as well as his skill with brushes led him to contact painters in his environment. Especially with those who followed the style of Caravaggio, called "Dutch caravaggistas" which come, in its great majority, from the School of Utrecht. The influence of the artist of his time Jan Van Bijlert is also appreciated. About fifteen works are known about his hand, some of them signed. Always represent figures or portrait. His portraits follow the style of Hendrick Blomaert. The most remarkable of its technique is the handling of the light, it plays with the chiaroscuro and warm tonalities, creating harmonious and beautiful works.



This excellent pastoral portrait made by the artist Johan Baeck, represents one of the most important genres in the Dutch gold century, the portrait. In the seventeenth century, the portrait became one of the most considered genres due to the great rise of the merchant

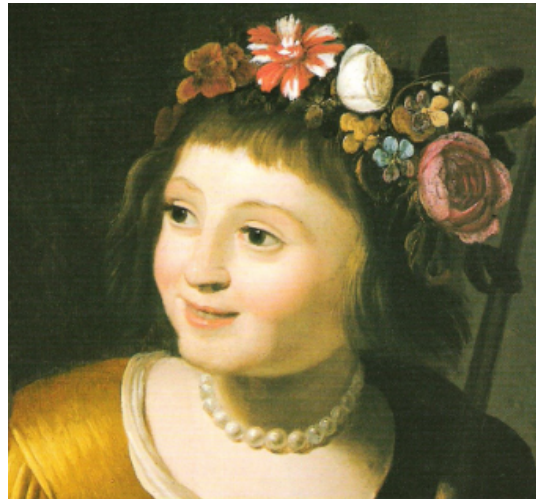
consider informal. These portraits were able to capture the personality and vitality of the characters, were authentic psychological portraits of the seventeenth century society, characterized by a compositional austerity.

The pastoral portrait, genre to which our painting belongs, has a great boom in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In most of the occasions, the portrayed are children as a child reproduction of the reality of that moment. We find an interest in the children's ways of perception, which appear showing a kind smile and an innocent look.



In our work a sweet girl appears, that by its clothes we could say that it belonged to a humble family. In addition, the rod that he holds with his right hand is the one used by the shepherds, a fact that confirms that it could be the daughter of a shepherd. His right hand appears raised with the index raised. We can observe an interesting pentimenti (repentance), modification in a work that manifests a change in the initial idea of the painter.

The face of the girl, has a sweet expression full of kindness, looks to his right with a smile on his side. As for her dress, she wears a dress in ocher tones with a brown tunic, as well as a beautiful pearl necklace and a beautiful diadem composed of different flowers, which show the author's mastery when representing flowers, since the Most of its production was constituted of vases of very rich and varied compositions.



As for the background, it is neutral to fully highlight the figure of the sweet girl, whose face and body appear illuminated with a soft light creating a very intimate atmosphere. The colors of the portrait are limited to a palette of ochres and browns except for the detailed diadem of flowers that he wears on his head, in which we find white, blue, red, pink flowers, etc. that does not do more than to attract the glance of the spectator before its exquisiteness.

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values in life, and the vanity of the human being. They symbolize beauty, wealth and luxury as something ephemeral, represented in beautiful flowers that will soon fade. In addition, the floral works have been strongly nuanced by a strong symbolism linked to religious themes.

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#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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- Erika Gemar-Koeltzsch, *Hollandische Stillebenmaler im 17 Jahrhundert*, 1995, Vol II, pág 155-158.
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#### **PROVENANCE**

- Antiques Market, Utrech, Holand.
- Private collection, Madrid, Spain.

#### **MUSEUMS**

There are works by Johan Baeck in the museum collections of several cities, among others: Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna.

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