



Hendrick Verschuring
(Gorkum 1627 - Dordrecht 1690)
Elegant Interior with Concert
Oil on panel
53 cm. x 41 cm.
1670 ca.

For the month of May we have chosen this wonderful painting of a concert in an elegant interior, made by prominent seventeenth-century Dutch painter Hendrick Verschuring, specializing in painting Italianate landscapes and genre scenes. Thanks to the documentation from the period we know that he was a pupil of Jan Both, and his career would follow the line of Philip Wouwerman landscape. Among his repertoire, find battles with soldiers and cavalry encounters, beach scenes with fishermen and elegant Dutch genre scenes.

His works were directed to the new emerging social class at that time, the bourgeoisie. In the seventeenth century, there was a renewal in the Netherlands within the social strata, with the development of trade and economic prosperity, as well as the nobility, the aristocracy and the clergy, a new class with high purchasing power, the bourgeoisie. That's why many artists focused his artistic production to a specific audience, representing scenes in which this powerful establishment appeared as the protagonist, often flaunting their wealth.

Hendrick Verschuring was a multifaceted painter, because as we said before, he specialized in different subjects, such as landscapes, battles or genre scenes. Our work belongs to the latter type, and they always repeat the same compositional model, in a room decorated with refined taste, there are multiple characters in funny gestures, very elegantly dressed and behaving fine education.



In our panel the protagonists are impeccably dressed lady, a gentleman playing a lute and a doggy. The elegant lady dressed in satin and groomed with a funny looking blue headdress feather. As jewels in her hair it seems a pearl necklace with matching earrings. Striking makeup on her face, her lips painted crimson red highlighting on a whitish complexion.

The dog seems to dance to the music of the lute, played the gentleman with the help of the score that is on the table. It is curious that the object land is probably a dog toy.

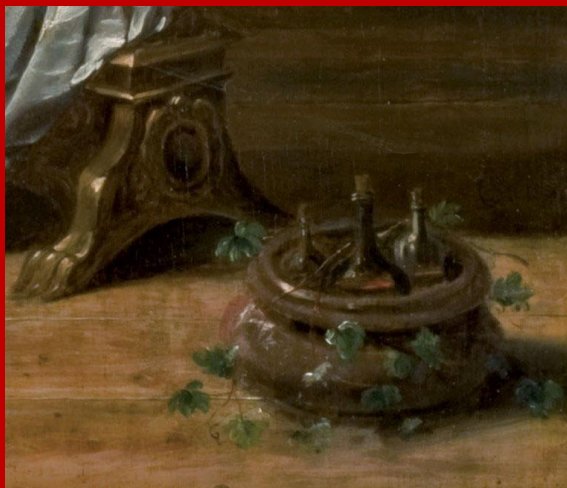


On the right the child detail peeking browse through the door, is a compositional very common among Dutch painters of the seventeenth century. In the background we see a balustrade with trees and a sunset sky full of clouds, all this indicates a clear Italian influence, both architectural elements such as the treatment of light and shadow, creating a beautiful effect of chiaroscuro.



We can say that the entire plot of the play revolves around the puppy, which serves her mistress games and lute music. Behind him and covering the table as a tablecloth, we see a Turkish rug with a pattern on a dark toned red-orange background. This rug was introduced in Europe from the eleventh century, thanks to the Crusades, and was used well to be hung on the walls or to cover tables, as in our picture.

In the table the artist improvises a small still life consisting of a pitcher and a Delft plate, the latter full of grapes that still retain the vine leaves. In the background a glass bottle with what looks like wine, and in the foreground a series of books with bookmarks and a lectern with a score.



We see on the floor a copper bowl surrounded by ivy, with three bottles inside. These buckets filled with water, were used to keep drinks cold.

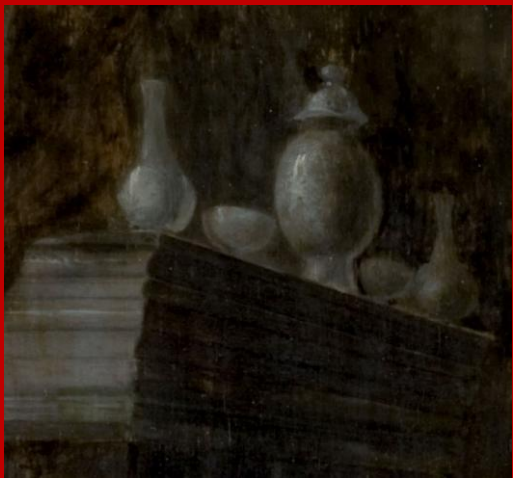
We also have to emphasize the stool on which sits the lady whose face we can glimpse, showing the entire side with a richly decorated with a small painting framed and finished paws claws.



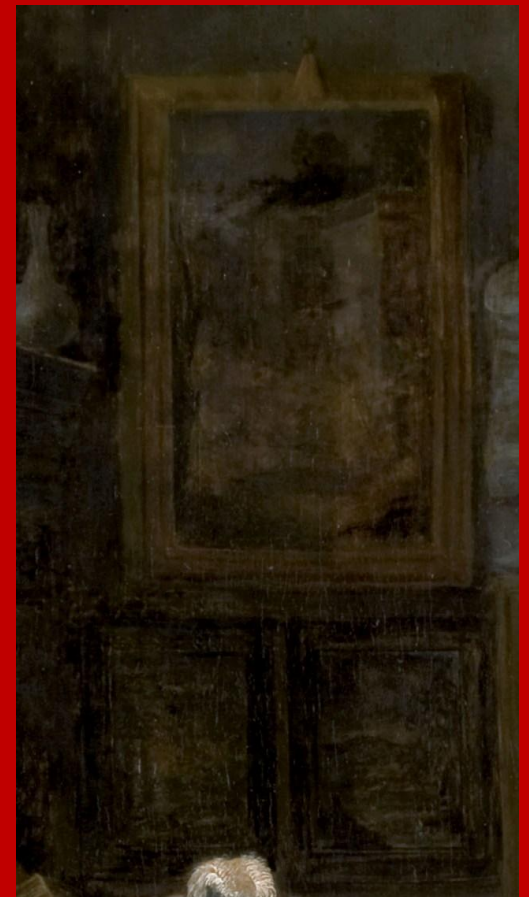
As mentioned above, the room is showing us that belong to a wealthy class, not just the characters that are represented, but also by the amount of refined furnishings and elegant details that are visible. At left is a cabinet decorated with three sculptures at the top, each of which shows different views, the first from the left is a gentleman with a hand covering his genitals, the second in the middle, is a woman with showing raised arms in all its glory, and finally another female figure is covered chest with one arm.

It is curious stone capital located in a corner; it looks like a devil with pointy ears, carefully observing the joyful concert.

Also we see three pictures right in the center of the composition, in the top with golden frame can more or less see a landscape with a villa. In the other two are below, hardly represented the topic differs.



Finally, note the rich porcelain pieces that decorate the top of the cabinet that appears at the bottom, side's two flower vases, with them two bowls and a vase in the center decorated with the lid on top, all in perfect order and harmony.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

- W. Bernt, *The Netherlandish Painters of the Seventeenth Century*, tomo 3, pg. 127, plates 1289 y 1290
- L. Salerno, *Pittori di Paesaggio del Seicento a Roma*, 3 Vol.; Vol II, pg. 794.
- K. Mullenmeister, *Meer und Land im Licht des 17 Jahrhunderts*, Band 3, N. 488-493.
- N. MacLaren, *National Gallery Catalogue. Dutch School*, Londres, 1960, pg. 440.
- E. Benezit, *Dictionnaire des peintres....*, tomo 14, 1999, Pg.181.

PROVENANCE

Private Collection, Vienna.

MUSEUMS

Hendrick Verschuring's works can be found in many museums around the world including: Braunschweig-Anton Herzog Ulrich Museum, Edinburgh- National Gallery of Scotland, Florence- Galleria Uffizi, Glasgow- Art Gallery, Gorinchem- Museum "Dit is Bethlehem", The Hague- Bredius Museum, Maurithuis, Leipzig- Fine Arts Museum, London- National Gallery, British Museum, Moscow- Pushkin Museum, Norfolk (Virginia)- Chrysler Museum, Richmond (Virginia)- Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Rome- Galleria Nazionale, Rotterdam- Museum Boymans van Beuningen, San Petersburg- Hermitage, Utrecht- Centraal Museum, Vienna- Schonborn-Buchheim.