

Rubens's Great Landscapes

Dates Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 May 2021
Times 14.00–17.00 (Tuesday 17.30)
Location Zoom Webinar



Programme

This year, for the first time in more than two hundred years, we reunite Rubens's two masterpieces of landscape: the National Gallery's *A View of Het Steen in the Early Morning* and our own *The Rainbow Landscape*. To mark the event, this conference draws together an international panel of eminent conservators and scholars – the first in many years to focus exclusively on Rubens as a landscape painter.

Our first day will explore Rubens's own distinctive creative methods and compositional approach, including recent technical analyses of three of his most famous landscape compositions. Our second day will explore the broader art historical context of Rubens's late landscapes, the inspiration he took from his beloved country estate 'Het Steen', the generative forces of Nature he delighted in observing, as well as the earlier visual sources he emulated.

We will also address the wider impact and legacy of Rubens's compositions on the development of landscape painting, particularly in the northern provinces of the Netherlands, while also tracing the trajectory of *Het Steen* and *The Rainbow Landscape* from Rubens's lifetime to the foundation years of the National Gallery and the Wallace Collection.

This conference is generously supported by The Monument Trust.

Monday 17 May 2021

Session 1: Rubens's Creative Process

- 14.00–14.05 **Director's Welcome**
Dr Xavier Bray (Director, The Wallace Collection, London)
- 14.05–14.10 **Introduction**
- 14.10–14.25 **Tour of the exhibition with Curator Dr Lucy Davis**
- 14.25–14.45 **Rubens and the Flexibility of Creative Procedure**
Dr Nico Van Hout (Head of Collection Research and Curator of Seventeenth-Century Paintings, Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten (KMSKA), Antwerp)
- 14.45–15.05 Expanding Ideas
George Bisacca (Conservator Emeritus, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York)
- 15.05–15.15 **Session 1 Q&A**
Moderated by Bart Cornelis (Curator of Dutch and Flemish Paintings 1600–1800, The National Gallery, London)
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Session 2: Technical Analysis of Three Great Rubens Landscapes

- 15.30–15.45 **Rubens's *Het Steen*: A Restoration in Context**
Larry Keith (Head of Conservation and Keeper, The National Gallery, London)
- 15.45–16.00 **The Construction and Development of *The Rainbow Landscape***
Thomas Bobak and Michaela Straub (Structural Painting Conservators, Bobak Conservation, London Studio of Hamilton Kerr Institute, University of Cambridge)
- 16.00–16.15 ***The Stormy Landscape with Philemon and Baucis*: The Radical Transformation of a Landscape**
Ina Slama (Paintings Conservator, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna)
- 16.15–16.25 The Making of New Frames for *Het Steen* and *The Rainbow Landscape*
Peter Schade (Head of Framing, The National Gallery, London)
- 16.25–17.00 **Session 2 Q&A and Conclusion**
Moderated by Prof. Nils Büttner (Professor of Art History, State Academy of Art and Design in Stuttgart, Germany)
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Tuesday 18 May 2021

Session 3: Inspiration and Legacy

- 14.05–14.25 **Rubens and his Landscapes: Reflections on the Notion of *Otium***
Dr Corina Kleinert (Postdoctoral Researcher, State Academy of Art and Design in Stuttgart, Germany)
- 14.25–14.45 **Earthly Fruitfulness and the Gods of Nature in Rubens's Imagery**
Prof. Elizabeth McGrath (Emeritus Professor and Honorary Fellow of the Warburg Institute, University of London)
- 14.45–14.55 **Break**
- 14.55–15.15 ***The Stormy Landscape with Philemon and Baucis: Some Sources of Inspiration***
Dr Gerlinde Gruber (Curator of Flemish Baroque Painting and Acting Director, Picture Gallery, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna)
- 15.15–15.35 **Rubens's Landscapes and the Dutch Republic**
Prof. Nils Büttner (Professor of Art History, State Academy of Art and Design in Stuttgart, Germany)
- 15.35–15.45 **Session 3 Q&A**
Moderated by Dr Lucy Davis (Curator of Flemish and British Paintings, The Wallace Collection, London)
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Session 4: From Brabant to London

- 16.00–16.20 ***Het Steen: History from a Laundry Basket***
Dr Bert Watteeuw (Curator of Research Collections, Rubenianum, Antwerp)
- 16.20–16.30 **A 'paysage avec un arcq' by Rubens in the 'antichambre' of Helena Fourment in 1675. Approaching the Earliest Provenance of *The Rainbow Landscape***
Dr Katlijne Van der Stighelen (Professor of Art History at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) and Laura D'Hoore (MA)
- 16.30–16.40 **'Dos paisas de mano de Pedro Pablo Rubens' in the Collection of the Marquis of Caracena. A Hypothesis Regarding the Spanish Provenance of the Great Landscapes**
Natalia Muñoz-Rojas (Enriqueta Harris Frankfurt Curatorial Assistant of Paintings, The Wallace Collection, London)
- 16.40–17.00 **Separation and Reunion. *Het Steen* and *The Rainbow Landscape* in England**
Dr Susanna Avery-Quash (Senior Research Curator in the History of Collecting, The National Gallery, London) and Dr Lucy Davis (Curator of Flemish and British Paintings, The Wallace Collection, London)
- 17.00–17.25 **Q&A session and Closing Remarks**
Moderated by Dr Alejandro Vergara (Senior Curator of Flemish and Northern European Paintings, Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid)
- 17.25–17.30 **Director's Message**
Dr Xavier Bray (Director, The Wallace Collection, London)

Joining Information and Format

This conference will be broadcast through Zoom Webinar. For more information, including instructions on how to download and use the system, please visit www.zoom.us/support.

Ticket holders will be emailed the Zoom Webinar ID and Passcode 48 hours in advance.
