

Dutch Paintings of the 17th Century

Dates	Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 October 2023
Times	11.00-13.00 BST
Location	Online (Zoom Webinar)
Tutor	Aliki Braine
Level	All Levels



Willem van de Velde, *Calm: Dutch Ships coming to Anchor*, about 1665

Course Description

From intimate portraits to windswept seascapes, lively tavern scenes and dramatic vistas of the countryside, the Wallace Collection boasts an outstanding and varied collection of 17th-century Dutch paintings. Delve into the works of some of the Dutch Republic's greatest artists including Rembrandt, Frans Hals, Jacob Ruisdael and Jan Steen, and learn about the key developments in art.

Providing ways to understand paintings, we'll reveal how and why particular themes emerged during this period of intense artistic creativity. We'll focus on four key subjects – landscapes, still lifes, portraits and narrative paintings – to discover how these were reinvigorated, employing a visual language suited to the needs of a new nation.

Session One: Landscapes/Seascapes and Still Life

In our first session we'll learn how the political, religious and social environment of a new Protestant republic led to the creation of distinct subjects for painting. We'll see how landscapes and seascapes were developed to celebrate and document expanding territories, and why these images are problematic today. We'll also discuss the development of still life painting, which not only described and recorded the material world but simultaneously developed a symbolic visual language.

Session Two: Portraiture and Genre Painting

In session two we'll discover ways in which the well-established practices of portraiture and narrative painting were re-examined and adapted. We'll discuss why portraiture experienced a huge rise in popularity, and we'll understand how the mercantile classes used portraits for positive self-promotion. We'll also examine why narrative painting was problematic for the Protestant faith and how its subsequent redefinition, through the representation of everyday life, enabled shared stories to be told.

Course Tutor

Aliki Braine studied at the Ruskin School of Fine Art, University of Oxford, the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London, and The Courtauld Institute, where she was awarded a distinction for her MA in 17th-century painting. After working for the National Gallery for 20 years, she now teaches for Christie's Education and the Wallace Collection, and is an Associate Lecturer for Camberwell College, University of The Arts London. Aliki is also a practising artist and regularly exhibits her photographic work internationally.

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

None required. This course is designed as an introduction to the subject.

Joining Information and Format

This course will be taught through [Zoom Webinar](#). Each course session duration is 120 minutes, including a five-minute break and time for Q&A with the tutor.

Tickets are for both dates. Ticket holders will be emailed the Zoom link, Webinar ID and Passcode 24 hours in advance of the first course session, which should be retained for accessing both sessions of the course.

Course Recording

This course will be recorded. Within 48 hours of each course session, ticket holders will be emailed a link to view the recording, which will be available for one week only.
