Reconstructing Original Formats: Technical Examination of Rembrandt Paintings in the Mauritshuis

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Royal Picture Gallery Mauritshuis
The Hague, The Netherlands

6:00 pm, Thursday, January 20, 2011
Lecture Hall, Institute of Fine Arts
1 East 78th Street, New York
Limited Seating.
RSVP by email to conservation.events@nyu.edu

One of the most important questions that arise during the examination of paintings is whether the format of the painting is original. Many Rembrandt pictures have undergone disfiguring alterations, including The Night Watch, The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Joan Deyman and The Mill, to name but a few. This talk reports on alterations to the format of recently investigated Rembrandt/Rembrandt workshop pictures in the Mauritshuis, including Susanna (1636), Saul and David (c.1660) and the Homer (1663).

Petria Noble carried out her post-graduate training in art history and conservation at The Conservation Center, Institute of Fine Arts of New York University. She is head of paintings conservation at the Royal Picture Gallery Mauritshuis in The Hague where she has worked since 1996. Her interests center on the identification and deterioration of paint layers as a key to understanding artists’ techniques and changes in appearance. In the last 10 years her primary focus has been technical study of paintings by Rembrandt in the collection of the Mauritshuis.