

# A...kademie der bildenden Künste Wien Kunstsammlungen

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1\_Exhibition Press Release

*Considering the Collection & King Vulture An Insert by Willem de Rooij, 7 March 2023*



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## Considering the Collection & *King Vulture* – An Insert by Willem de Rooij

In the new format *Considering the Collection & An Insert by ...*, contemporary artists take a look at the collection and present statements in separate exhibition rooms / sections of the Paintings Gallery on various aspects of works from the Art Collections or themes that arise from the Academy and the Paintings Gallery, both as a location and as a museum. These contributions are to be seen from the point of view of a critical statement resulting from our present-day perspective on history and historical collections in general. The statements feature as *inserts* into the respective constellations of the temporary exhibition collection, i. e. with varying areas of emphasis. The Dutch artist Willem de Rooij has been invited to get the series underway.

## Considering the Collection

Under the motto *Considering the Collection*, the inventories that make up the Paintings Gallery collection are to be showcased more extensively once again, following their return to Schillerplatz, and presented as part of a new assembly based on aspects such as genre and theme. In a direct juxtaposition and a deliberate mix of works from different schools of painting and artistic landscapes, similarities and differences are equally and instantaneously revealed.

After the first section curated by Sabine Folie, the starting point of which is the prominent collection of 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch paintings (and also by way of introduction to Willem de Rooij's *Insert* with its focus on Dutch still life and animal painting), the paintings of the Romance-speaking world are another focal point in the subsequent new presentation of all the schools featured in the collection of the Paintings Gallery. The occasion is the publication of a comprehensive academic catalogue on these inventories by Martina Fleischer, long-time member of staff of the Paintings Gallery, to be presented in the course of the year under the title *Italian, French and Spanish Paintings. The Paintings Gallery of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna*.

As a taster to the publication, the opulence of this collection is celebrated through a new approach. Alongside popular favourites such as Antonio da Fabriano's *Coronation of the Virgin* and Botticelli's *Tondo*, little-known works are also being showcased, including *The Release of St Peter from Prison* by Mattia Preti. This religious history painting impresses through the monumentality of the figures and the picture format itself. History paintings by Luca Giordano and Martin Johann Schmidt (called *Kremser Schmidt*) dedicated to mythological themes offer a preview of the later exhibition of history paintings scheduled for September 2023. Peter Paul Rubens and Flemish painting also feature prominently in the new show. As a national and international major attraction, Hieronymus Bosch's *Last Judgement Triptych* is to retain its traditional place in the Gallery.

With works by Willem van Aelst, Agostino Beltrano (called Agostinello), Francesco d'Antonio, Jan Asselijn, Hendrik van Balen, Herri met de Bles, Peeter Boel, Hieronymus Bosch, Jan Both, Alessandro di Mariano Filipepi (called Botticelli), Dieric Bouts, Adriaen Brouwer, Galeazzo Campi, Juan Carreño de Miranda, Joos van Cleve, Gustave Courbet, Lucas Cranach the Elder, Gaspard de Crayer, Joseph Dorffmeister, Karel Dujardin, Anthony van Dyck, Antonio da Fabriano, Barent Fabritius, Gregorio de Ferrari, Francesco Raibolini (called Francesco Francia), Jan Fyt, Corrado Giaquinto, Luca Giordano, Hans Baldung Grien, Dirck Hals, Jan Davidsz. de Heem, Jan van der Heyden, Ambrosius Holbein, Jacob Jordaens, Bernhard Keilhau (called Monsù Bernardo), Johann Baptist von Lampi the Younger, Johannes Lingelbach, Johann Liss, Andrea Locatelli, Claude Gellée (called Le Lorrain), Nicola Malinconico, Girolamo Mirola, Master of the Austrian Forelands, Monogrammist H. P., Joos de Momper the Younger, Jan de Momper, Marco Palmezzano, Cornelis van Poelenburch, Mattia Preti, Francesco de Rosa, Peter Paul Rubens, Jacob van Ruisdael, Isaack van Ruysdael, Martin Johann Schmidt (called *Kremser Schmidt*), Pierre Subleyras, Cornelis de Vos, Jan Wildens, and others.

Curated by Claudia Koch

## *King Vulture – An Insert* by Willem de Rooij

Following his extensive research on Melchior d'Hondecoeter for his *Intolerance* exhibition at the Neue Nationalgalerie Berlin (2010), Willem de Rooij has in recent years also turned his attention to d'Hondecoeter's cousin Jan Weenix and the relations with Dirk Valkenburg, who was their mutual pupil.

De Rooij's research always considers the historical circumstances, including a post-colonial perspective and the classist details transmitted through images. Of similar significance are allegorical references, formal techniques and practices, and the parameters through which we look at and interpret these works against our present-day discursive background. Among the issues addressed are notions such as the original, the copy, certain 'formulas' and iteration techniques, and the conditions governing the exhibiting and lending / touring of artworks / commodities as well as the living 'material' in a globalised world.

In the 2022/2023 exhibition *King Vulture*, de Rooij takes up several of these elements, including the decision, prompted by certain conditions resulting from the Museum's operations, to have photographic reproductions of four paintings by Dutch painter Jan Weenix (1642–1719), identified by visible colour charts, copied by Yaohui Zhu and the team at the Yunxi Art Studio, Dafen (China). At the Paintings Gallery, this particular thread is picked up and associated with other original works by Jan Weenix and his contemporaries Melchior d'Hondecoeter and Dirk Valkenburg from the Academy's holdings and other Viennese collections.

By way of curatorial introduction to the next room designed by Willem de Rooij, an arrangement of paintings from the collection was assembled in the first room of the Paintings Gallery. It could be described as a prelude leading into the current presentation of de Rooij and, at the same time, as a setting highlighting Holland's Golden Age, as evidenced by the bourgeois and Protestant-minded Dutch painting characteristic of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. They include works by Jan van der Heyden, Reinier Nooms, known as Zeeman, Edgar van der Poel and Gerrit Berckheyde, Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn, Willem van Aelst, Pieter de Hooch, Hendrick Cornelisz. van Vliet and Emanuel de Witte. By the same token, *Bouquet IV* (2005) in the foyer, with its counterpart in the first room, refers to de Rooij's longstanding collaboration with Jeroen de Rijke (1970–2006) as well as the still life tradition in Holland on the one hand and the import of exotic plants from colonial vassal states around the world on the other. Beyond the allegorical references, the interplay between the real bouquet and its reproduction on a gelatin silver print in grey tones echoes the idea of the original and its copy in the next room. The setting of Calvinist puritanism described above, for which sobriety, an honest day's work and diligence are the preconditions for a just reward beyond one's earthly existence, also paves the way for the period still-life painting of animals that Willem de Rooij then references in his installation.

Coinciding with the exhibition is the first publication in the series *Considering the Collection & An Insert* by ...

Willem de Rooij (\*1969, Beverwijk, NL) investigates the production, contextualization and interpretation of images through a variety of media. Appropriations and collaborations inform his method, facilitating research in art history and ethnography. Since 2010 Willem de Rooij works on the first oeuvre catalogue on the work of Dirk Valkenburg. De Rooij's installation *Valkenburg*, containing original works, and the catalogue will be presented at Centraal Museum Utrecht early 2025.

De Rooij teaches at the Städelschule in Frankfurt and the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam, and is a founding director of the BPA// Berlin Program for Artists. Recent solo exhibitions have included Portikus Frankfurt, IMA Brisbane, Consortium Dijon and the Jewish Museum New York; group exhibitions in which Willem de Rooij has taken part were on show at BDL Museum Mumbai, Hammer Museum Los Angeles, the Jakarta Biennale, Aishti Foundation Beirut, and the 10<sup>th</sup> Shanghai Biennale.

Curated by Sabine Folie

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*Considering the Collection & King Vulture – An Insert by Willem de Rooij*

Press conference: Tuesday, 7 March 2023, 11 am

Accreditation: [kunstsammlungen\\_presse@akbild.ac.at](mailto:kunstsammlungen_presse@akbild.ac.at)

- Opens: 7 March 2023, 7 pm
- Exhibition run: 8 March 2023–20 August 2023
- Where: Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Paintings Gallery, Schillerplatz 3, 1010 Vienna

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## Lektionen/Lessons

Lecture by Willem de Rooij, *King Vulture*, Wednesday, 8 March 2023, 6 pm

Accompanying the exhibition are numerous lectures as part of the *Lektionen/Lessons* series: besides Willem de Rooij, they also feature presentations by Vanessa Joan Müller, Christian Krawagna, Carolin Bohlmann and IJsbrand Hummelen, Helmut Draxler, and the presentation of the inventory catalogue on French and Italian works at the Paintings Gallery.

Guided tours:

Sabine Folie and Claudia Koch, 27 April 2023, 4 pm

Martina Fleischer: *A Special Look at the Italian Collection*, 30 March and 22 June 2023, 4 pm

Overview tours *Considering the Collection & King Vulture – An Insert by Willem de Rooij*  
on Sundays, 10.30 am

Full details of the exhibition and press photos for downloading *Considering the Collection & King Vulture – An Insert by Willem de Rooij* can be found under

[www.kunstsammlungenakademie.at/en/information/press/2023-02-01/](http://www.kunstsammlungenakademie.at/en/information/press/2023-02-01/)

for the [Programme Preview for 2023](#) click here

[www.kunstsammlungenakademie.at/de/information/presse/2022-12-01/](http://www.kunstsammlungenakademie.at/de/information/presse/2022-12-01/)

All the current dates and full details can be found on the Art Collections homepage at  
[www.kunstsammlungenakademie.at](http://www.kunstsammlungenakademie.at)

Illustration page 1: Exhibition Motif combining works by Willem de Rooij, *Documentation of Jan Weenix' Südamerikanischer Königsgeier (1700) from the collection of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien by anonymous photographer, painted by Yaohui Zhu and team for Yunxi Art Studio, Dafen, 2022*  
© Willem de Rooij, Photo: Mathias Völzke; and Jan van der Heyden, *Still Life with Globe, Books and Chinese Silk*, c. 1669 © Paintings Gallery of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

## Press photos

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