



# The Purloined Masterpiece

8.4.–30.10.2022

A...kademie der bildenden Künste Wien  
Gemäldegalerie



DERSTANDARD

Mofft combining works by Lili Dujourie, (Untitled) Blauw raak, 1980  
© Lili Dujourie, and Franz Zacherle, *Pygmalion adorning his Statue*, 1771  
© The Paintings Gallery of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

Directions  
· Subway U1, U4: Karlsplatz  
· Tram 1, 2, 71, D, U2Z: Burglring / Oper Karlsplatz  
· Bus 57A: Burglring / Getreidemarkt

Instagram: kunstsammlungenakademievienna  
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Paintings Gallery  
Opening hours: Daily except Monday, 10 am to 6 pm  
Entrance fee: 9 Euro / Discount 6 Euro

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Schillerplatz 3, 1010 Vienna  
Art Collections  
Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

## The Purloined Masterpiece Images as Time Machines

The title of the exhibition comes from a commingling of E. A. Poe's detective story *The Purloined Letter* about a stolen letter that goes unnoticed, although – or perhaps because – it is in plain sight and Honoré de Balzac's novella *The Unknown Masterpiece* (*Le Chef-d'oeuvre inconnu*), in which the masterpiece that is unveiled turns out to be a surface with a few strokes rather than reproducing a perfect image of a beautiful woman. Questions of reality and deception play a role in both narratives – a reality that seems to elude perception and representation. They also address major issues that arise in painting, pertaining for example to representation, mimesis or how to define “mastery” when it comes to grasping and depicting reality – and, connected to this, how a moment is frozen and time stopped in its tracks.

Melding these two novellas has generated a composite title, a hybrid that refers on the one hand to the many hybrid forms in the exhibition, while also citing to the tactic of borrowing or “purloining” masterpieces in order to bring them into conversation with contemporary works on a journey through time.

In addition to the topic of the *trompe l'oeil*, the optical illusion in painting, successive rooms in the exhibition showcase the metaphor of the seascape and its territorial-political representation – the ship and the sea. The period on the cusp of courtly and bourgeois concepts of society, the implications of proto-industrialisation for class relations and living conditions play a key role here along with related ambiguous figures of exclusion and status satires. Nudes and depictions of Mary come into play, as do the contrasting poles of the Dionysian and Apollonian or Gothic transcendence.

This gives rise to an impression akin to various chapters of a book that visitors can step right into or acts in a drama on stage, that invite and activate to new ways of looking at the Old Masters. It is one of many possible itineraries offered by the art collections of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna – Paintings Gallery, Graphic Collection and Plaster Cast Collection. This is the start of an adventure that we shall embark upon in ever new iterations over the coming years.

The publication accompanying the exhibition will be presented on the occasion of the finissage in October 2022.  
Preorders: [kunstsammlungen@akbild.ac.at](mailto:kunstsammlungen@akbild.ac.at)

Willem van Aelst, Albrecht Altdorfer, Philips Angel van Middelburg, Ludolf Backhuysen, Cornelis Bega, Johann Christian Friedrich Wilhelm Beyer, Abraham van Beyeren, Quirin Boel, Hieronymus Bosch, Alessandro di Mariano Filipepi, known as Botticelli, Dieric Bouts, Richard Brakenburgh, Jan Brueghel the Elder, attributed, Jacques Callot, Daniel Chodowiecki, Joos van Cleve, Lucas Cranach the Elder, Albrecht Dürer, Anthony van Dyck, Antonio da Fabriano, Barent Fabritius, Jan Fyt, Jan van Goyen, Hans Baldung Grien, Joris van der Haagen, Samuel van Hoogstraten, Jan van Huysum, Johann Kupetzky, Johann Baptist von Lampi the Younger, Claude Gelee, known as Lorrain, Master of the Austrian Forelands, Master of the Von Groote Adoration, Master of the Legend of Saint Catherine (Circle), Netherlandish Master, Florentine Painter, Martin van Meytens, Michael van Mierevelt, Jan Miense Molenaer, Monogrammist H. P., Jacobea Maria van Nikkelen, Adriaen van Ostade, Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn, Peter Paul Rubens, Jacob van Ruisdael, Rachel Ruysch, Roelant Savery, Jacopo del Sellaio, Pierre Subleyras, David Teniers the Younger, Anna Dorothea Therbusch, Wigerus Vitringa, Simon de Vlieger, Cornelis van der Voort, attributed, Franz Zächerle, Reinier Nooms, known as Zeeman, Plaster casts based on antique and classicist models, Gothic architectural drawings

Martin Beck, Anna-Sophie Berger / Teak Ramos, Marcel Broodthaers, Lili Dujourie, VALIE EXPORT, Rodney Graham, Ulrike Grossarth, Albert Paris Gütersloh, Marcello Maloberti, Willem Oorebeek, Jeroen de Rijke / Willem de Rooij, Klaus Scherübel, Allan Sekula, Paul Sietsema, Laurence Sturla

Curated by Sabine Folie, Director of the Art Collections

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Lecture by Willem Oorebeek (English)

*Bild, oder ...*

Fri, 8 Apr 2022, 4:30 pm

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Artist Talk with Ulrike Grossarth (German)

*Nebensächliches im Zentrum*

Fri, 8 Apr 2022, 6 pm

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Director's Guided Tour with Sabine Folie

Thu, 5 May 2022, 4:30 pm

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Overview Tour *The Purloined Masterpiece*.

*Images as Time Machines* every Sun, 10:30 am

All current events and more information can be found online:  
[www.kunstsammlungenakademie.at](http://www.kunstsammlungenakademie.at)