

L4-day8-9day8-9

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Dutch Painters of the Baroque

Art Discussed:

Leyster, *Self-Portrait*

Steen, *The Feast of Saint Nicholas*

Ruisdael, *View of Haarlem from the Dunes at Overveen*

Hals, *Archers of Saint Hadrian*

VOCAB:

Impasto

HW:

Activity Sheets.

Characteristics of Dutch Art:

- No church or aristocracy to commission paintings
- Art has a bourgeois character
- Paintings used to cover bare walls, give pleasure to the eye
- Cheerful subjects, unpleasant ones are given a humorous slant
- Artists worked on the open market, not for patrons: specialization according to subject matter
- Small paintings for small homes
- Subjects were easily understandable, some allegorical representations, no religious ecstasies and few pagan myths

Leyster, *Self-Portrait*

- Smile: she greets us casually, as does the fiddler
- Self-assured, charming, sociable
- Meets the viewer's gaze, as if to speak to us
- Signed her paintings with her initials and a star, punning meaning of her name "leading star"

- Well-dressed while painting
- Quick sure brushstrokes

Steen, *The Feast of Saint Nicholas*

- Genre painting
- Saint Nicholas has visited the children with various results
- A girl grabs her doll as her mother pleads to look at it, or perhaps asks her to share
- Boy at left is crying over his disappointed gift
- Chaos in search for gifts
- Man on right points out to small child how Saint Nicholas descended the chimney
- Ten figures in a complex arrangement
- Complicated series of diagonals unify figures that seem to bend this way and that in reflection of one another
- Adult meaning to this children's scene

Ruisdael, *View of Haarlem from the Dunes at Overveen*

- Flat horizon of the Netherlands: sky takes up $\frac{3}{4}$ of painting
- Sullen clouds, dramatically painted
- Receding spaces through dark and light passages
- Bleaching linen manufactured in Holland
- Long strips of treated cloth were spread out to bleach in the fields
- Openness and height, very distant and elevated point-of-view

Hals, *Archers of Saint Hadrian*

- Responsible citizen mentality among the Dutch
- No static arrangements; no interaction
- Strong horizontal emphasis with vertical spears punctuating the composition
- Left group around dominant figure of Col. Johan Claez. Loo, his cane indicates his authority
- Right group is a separate unit: Lt. Hendrick Gerritsz. Pot holds a book (minutes of meeting?)

- Back to back groups
- Distinct individuality of figures
- Dynamically grouped with strong diagonals of composition