



BRUCE MUSEUM
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For Immediate Release
August 24, 2006

Jan van der Heyden (1637 –1712) September 16, 2006 – January 10, 2007

Bruce Museum
1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT



Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637-1712)
Keizersgracht with the Westerkerk, Amsterdam
signed, oil on panel, 54 x 63cm
Private Collection

The Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Connecticut, USA, presents an exhibition of works by Jan van der Heyden (1637-1712), the greatest painter of cityscapes in the Golden Age of Dutch painting, from September 16, 2006, through January 10, 2007. The exhibition, ***Jan van der Heyden (1637 –1712)***, is the first monographic exhibition of Jan van der Heyden's art to be mounted in seventy years and the first show ever in the United States. The exhibition will have its only showing in the United States at the Bruce Museum. It will then travel in a slightly abridged form to the renowned Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, the foremost museum of Dutch art in the world (February 1, 2007 – April 30, 2007).

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The exhibition is organized by the Bruce Museum, in collaboration with the Rijksmuseum, and is drawn from several dozen public and private lenders from throughout the United States and Europe, including the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam; Musée du Louvre, Paris; Amsterdams Historisch Museum, Amsterdam; Royal Cabinet of Paintings, The Mauritshuis, The Hague; Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence; the National Gallery of Art, Washington; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Detroit Institute of Arts; and several private collections. The show is curated by Peter C. Sutton, Executive Director of the Bruce Museum, who also served as the lead author of the exhibition catalogue.

Jan van der Heyden (1637 –1712) consists of 37 of the artist's cityscape paintings and 16 drawings with supplemental material on Van der Heyden's publication on firefighting. As the preeminent cityscape artists, Jan van der Heyden specialized in exquisitely observed town views, city squares, tree-lined canals with handsome gabled houses, elegant country homes, views of foreign cities, and architectural fantasies known as *capricci*. Primarily remembered for these pioneering urban views, he also painted pure landscapes as well as a few still lifes, some of which will be on view in the exhibition.

Although Van der Heyden is renowned for his naturalism, many of his paintings take liberties with the actual sites. He was one of the first painters to record the exterior aspect of the monuments and churches of Amsterdam, his native Holland, Germany, and the Spanish Netherlands (an area that includes the modern Belgium and Luxembourg), but he was more interested in evoking the look and atmosphere of a city than topographic accuracy. Van der Heyden was the master of the plausible fiction. His exceptionally refined and detailed technique was legendary; his contemporaries marveled at his ability to paint the mortar between individual bricks while retaining an overall compositional unity, brilliant palette and perfectly balanced aerial perspective.

A remarkably versatile individual, Van der Heyden was at least as famous in his own day as an inventor, engineer, and public administrator as he was as an artist. He not only perfected the street lamp and set up a municipal lighting system for Amsterdam, he also invented a fire pump and hose that became the standard in Europe for nearly two centuries. He served as head and chief administrator of the fire department in Amsterdam and set up a factory to manufacture his firefighting equipment. These extra-artistic activities made him such a rich man that he seems not to have had to sell his paintings to make a living; a substantial portion of his oeuvre was in his own possession at his death. The catalogue discusses his contributions to art history as well as the novelty and legacy of his inventions and innovations as an administrator.

The show and its catalogue offer an overview of Van der Heyden's life and artistic career, revealing for the first time some of the "art secrets" that he used in composing his minutely executed scenes. Although he had no recorded students, the artist inspired legions of followers and imitators; indeed his name became synonymous with cityscape painting. The show reveals among other achievements his important precedents for Italian eighteenth-century Venetian *vedute* by such artists as Canaletto and Bellotto.

The extensively illustrated 250-page catalogue is the first publication on the artist in the English language. It was written by Dr. Sutton, with essays by Jonathan Bikker and Arie Wallert, as well as catalogue entries by Taco Dibbits and Marijn Schapelhouman of the Rijksmuseum and Norbert Middelkoop of the Amsterdams Historisch Museum. A series of public programs related to the exhibition is also scheduled at the Bruce Museum. A website dedicated to the exhibition and its public programs will be available on-line at www.brucemuseum.org.

Jan van der Heyden (1632-1712) is generously supported by Reed Elsevier, with additional support from the Malcolm Hewitt Wiener Foundation, the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, The David T. Langrock Foundation, The Netherland-America Foundation, The Charles M. and Deborah G. Royce Exhibition Fund, and a Committee of Honor under the patronage of The Honorable Cora Minderhoud, Consul General of the Netherlands in New York. This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities.

The Bruce Museum is located at 1 Museum Drive in Greenwich, Connecticut. It is situated near Interstate-95, Exit 3, and a short walk from the Greenwich, CT rail station. Museum hours are: Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission: \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and students, and free for children under five and members. Free admission to all on Tuesdays. Groups of eight or more require advance reservations. Museum exhibition tours are held Fridays at 12:30 p.m. Free, on-site parking is available. The Bruce Museum is accessible to individuals with disabilities. For information, call the Bruce Museum at (203) 869-0376 or visit the Bruce Museum website at www.brucemuseum.org.



Jan van der Heyden (1637 –1712)

September 16, 2006 – January 10, 2007

Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut www.brucemuseum.org

These images are available in color as digital files (JPEG 300 dpi) for exhibition publicity only.

Caption information provided is edited. Full image captions will be sent with images.

To receive images via e-mail contact: Mike Horyczun, Bruce Museum Director of Public Relations, (203) 869-6786, ext. 330, or mike@brucemuseum.org



1_ Oude Delft Canal
Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
*View of Oude Delft Canal
with the Oude Kerk, Delft*
The Detroit Institute of Arts



2_ St. Severin
Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
*St. Severin's Church in Cologne
in an Imaginary Setting*
Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam



3_ Architectural Fantasy
Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
*An Architectural Fantasy with
a Triumphal Arch*
The National Gallery, London



4_ St. Andreas
Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
*View with the Jesuit Church of
St. Andreas, Düsseldorf*
Private collection



5_ Imaginary View of St. Andreas
Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
*Imaginary View of the Jesuit Church of St.
Andreas in Düsseldorf*
Royal Cabinet of Paintings, Mauritshuis,
The Hague



6_ Dam with Town Hall
Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
View of the Dam with Town Hall in Amsterdam
Musée du Louvre
Département des Peintures, Paris



7_ Oudezijds Voorburgwal
Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
*View of the Oudezijds Voorburgwal with the
Oude Kerk in Amsterdam*
Royal Cabinet of Paintings, Mauritshuis
The Hague



8_ Keizersgracht
Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
*View of the Keizersgracht and Westerkerk
in Amsterdam*
Private collection



9_ Houses
Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
Houses on the Herengracht, Amsterdam
Private collection

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10_ Drawbridge

Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
The Drawbridge
Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam



11_ Stone Bridge

Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
The Stone Bridge
Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam



12_ City Square

Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
View of a City Square with Weidenbach Cloister and St. Pantaleon, Cologne
Private collection



13_ Baroque Palace

Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
The Grounds of a Baroque Palace
Otto Naumann, Ltd., New York



14_ Garden

Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
The Garden of the Old Palace, Brussels
Toledo Museum of Art



15_ Oude Delft Canal

Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
The Oude Delft Canal and the Oude Kerk, Delft
Nasjonalmuseet for kunst, arkitektur og design/The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo



16_ Still Life

Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
Still Life with Globe, Books, Sculpture and Other Objects
Gemäldegalerie der Akademie der bildenden Künste, Vienna



17_ Dam Square

Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
Dam Square in Amsterdam
Amsterdams Historisch Museum, Amsterdam



18_ Firefighting

Jan van der Heyden (Dutch, 1637 –1712)
A Comparison of Old and New Firefighting Methods
Rijksmuseum, Rijksprentenkabinet, Amsterdam