The Card Party
Artist: Caspar Netscher (Dutch, Heidelberg 1639?–1684 The Hague)
Date: ca. 1665
Medium: Oil on canvas
Dimensions: 19 3/4 x 17 3/4 in. (50.2 x 45.1 cm)
Classification: Paintings
Credit Line: Marquand Collection, Gift of Henry G. Marquand, 1889
Accession Number: 89.15.6

Catalogue Entry

Netscher's scenes of fashionable figures in luxurious interiors date mostly from the mid-1660s. This one has been placed convincingly about 1665. The subject of courting couples, the figure types, the attention to fine fabrics, the arrangement of the furniture (especially the matching stool and chair), and the dog are all indebted in some degree to the artist's teacher, Gerard ter Borch. As in The Suitor's Visit of about 1658 by Ter Borch (National Gallery of Art, Washington), Netscher himself appears to have served as a model for one of the suitors here, the seated man.

Although not involved in the card game, the tall beauty to the left may be described as the center of attention. She is addressed by a male companion but concentrates on the fluffy lapdog. The love triangle of mistress, suitor, and spaniel recalls that in Frans van Mieris's Teasing the Pet of 1660 ( Mauritshuis, The Hague), which influenced a number of contemporary painters. In The Met’s picture, the color of the dog's coat, his earnest eyes, and perhaps the pointing nose and floppy ears underscore a comparison with the young lady's admirer. Some comment on the male visitors also may be detected in the seated woman's smile at the viewer.

Netherlandish images comparing courtship with card-playing and other games of chance date back to the first half of the sixteenth century. In older examples, various transgressions are symbolized, but here the cards, like the theorbo and songbook on the chair to the left (the instrument's case, now nearly invisible, is behind the couple to the right), and the wine decanter and glass on a tray on the table, are mere props in a scene that is understood almost entirely in terms of gestures, expressions, and poses. No one surpassed Ter Borch in observing social behavior, but Netscher was sometimes a worthy follower.

The subjects of the simulated reliefs on the back wall, which in the Netherlands would likely have been grisaille on canvas, have not been identified previously. The oval composition depicts a victorious rider with a fallen figure beneath a rearing horse. This motif descended from Roman coins and Renaissance designs for equestrian monuments to seventeenth-century sculptures and prints. The other relief is nearly indecipherable, but appears to represent a scene of sea gods, perhaps the Triumph of Venus. It is likely that both images suggest the subjugation of men.

[2017; adapted from Liedtke 2007]

Signatures, Inscriptions, and Markings

Inscription: Signed and dated (on stretcher of stool): CNetscher/[1]66[ ]

Provenance

Johan van Schuylenburg, Haarlem (until 1735; his sale, The Hague, September 20, 1735, no. 56, for fl. 400); ?Pierre-Louis-Paul Randon de Boisset, Paris (until 1777; his estate sale, Remy & Julliot, Paris, February 27ff., 1777, no. 141, for Fr 2,800); Philip Hill (in 1811; his sale, Christie's, London, January 26, 1811, no. 36, for £84, bought in); Colonel Hugh Baillie, Tarradale, Jedburgh, Roxburgh, Scotland (by 1829–58; his sale, Christie's, London, May 15, 1858, no. 10, as by Eglon van der Neer, for £161.14 to Nieuwenhuys); [C. J. Nieuwenhuys, London, until d. 1883; his estate sale, Christie's, London, July 17, 1886, no. 80, as by Netscher, for £278.5 to Colnaghi]; [Colnaghi, London, 1886]; [Sedelmeyer, Paris, 1886; sold to Marquand]; Henry G. Marquand, New York (by 1886–89)

Exhibition History

Nashville. Fisk University. "[title not known]," April 20–August 15, 1951, no catalogue.
Atlanta University. "[title not known]," September 1, 1951–January 30, 1952, no catalogue.
References


Timeline of Art History

Timelines

Low Countries, 1600-1800 A.D.

MetPublications

*European Paintings in The Metropolitan Museum of Art by Artists Born before 1865: A Summary Catalogue*

*Dutch Paintings in The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Volume I and II*

Department

European Paintings (2,566)

Artist / Maker / Culture

Caspar Netscher (3)

Object Type / Material

Canvas (4,867)

Oil paint (2,081)

Paintings (13,355)

Geographic Location

Europe (185,178)

Netherlands (9,266)

Date / Era

A.D. 1600–1800 (76,967)
The description of Card Party. This CLASSIC party game, just got bigger and better. CARD PARTY is inspired by the classic card games you play with family and friends…But now has the craziest cards you have ever seen! Wowza! Card Party Features. Ads keep the MarioWiki independent and free :) It has been requested that this article be rewritten and expanded to add info of what Bowser/Koopa Kid does, and detail what happens if more than one player is tied for last place when there is one star card left. Card Party is a side-game from Mario Party 5. It is very similar to the main game, however in the form of a card game. Hosted by Mamar (in charge of Bonus Mode), this board is entirely made up of cards, with character game pieces instead of