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Galería de Arte

Soraya Cartategui

Dear friends,

In this month of January the gallery presents this wonderful interior, made by the outstanding 17th-century Dutch painter, Pieter de Nijs.

Best wishes,
Soraya Cartategui

**Pieter de Nijs**

(Amsterdam 1624 – 1681)

“Interior with peasants”

Oil on panel

59 x 70 cm. (23,23 x 27,56 in.)

Signed

1651 ca.

Pieter de Nijs was a relevant Dutch Golden Age painter specializing in genre scenes and portraits. Very little is known about his life, only that he was a great traveler who spent short periods of time in numerous cities and countries where he came into contact with other artists from cities such as Rotterdam or Antwerp. He was a student of the also important painter Hendrik Martensz Sorgh (1610-1670) from which he learned the personal way of treating interiors with peasants, whom he showed doing his day-to-day activities.

On December 10, 1670, he married Catharina Smit in Amsterdam, where he remained until his death in 1681.

His works represent funny scenes, whose protagonists are mostly humble characters, peasants, who appear playing or having a snack. These scenes are usually interior, with numerous details that reflect the painter's mastery when representing the different materials of the objects that we find in his paintings. In addition, the handling of lights and shadows is masterful, creating cozy and beautiful scenes.

However, his portraits show ladies and gentlemen of high society, dressed in their rich clothes. They are psychological portraits where the author captures the entire personality of the person portrayed, which is mainly in the gaze that directs the viewer directly where we can perceive it.



The representation of the taverns, within the genre painting was very influential in the Golden Painting of the 17th century Dutch. They constituted a faithful portrait of society that showed scenes of everyday life. Within this type of work, we find scenes of different kinds, card players, smokers, lively conversations, etc.



Our work represents an interior where we can find modest characters sitting around a table. To the left of the composition, a fun scene composed of a group of peasants who seems to be reciting or reading a letter that one of them carries on their hands. We see his grotesque gestures, the woman who grabs the arm with a surprised face, behind the old man appears waiting for the news and on the right, the man in a red cap, watches with a serious gesture while smoking his pipe. Beside him, a young man attends to everything that is happening. In addition we also found a funny little girl who stands on her father to see what has surprised the elders.

In front of this group of humble peasants, we find two other characters who appear

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addition, the character shown with his back to the viewer, dressed in a battered hat, grabs his jug tightly waiting for the events that the character who has the writing seems to be telling.



The main scene appears widely illuminated, with the soft light that enters through the open window that allows us to see the sky and the leafy branches of a tree, which only accentuates the painter's mastery getting depth and perspective in this beautiful scene.

At the bottom of the room, we observe how a man is entering to join the talk. In this space we already perceive that the color range becomes increasingly dark, with ocher and brown tones. We observe a small bookcase with kitchen utensils and a staircase that leads to the upper floor of the tavern.



It is surprising in this beautiful picture the author's exquisiteness representing the quality of the objects, among which we find porcelain, bronze and wooden utensils that are a clear example of the tools they used at the time and that are masterfully painted.

A curiosity that catches the attention of this work is the decoration of the walls, we find a painting with an owl whose



meaning is wisdom. In addition, this is also linked to the great boom of art market spotlights where they could acquire numerous pieces.

In conclusion, the great rise of gender painting has a lot to do with the importance of representing the daily life of a society so complex and in full transformation, which gives us

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PROVENANCE

- Private collection, Germany

MUSEUMS

There are works by Pieter de Nijs in the collections of museums in several cities, among others: Lille Museum, Lille (France) - Liechtenstein Museum, Vienna (Austria) - Stummer Collection, Vienna (Austria).

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