



# Conversation Pieces

The World of Bruegel

Alexandra van Dongen

Abdelkader Benali

Katrien Lichtert

Sabine Pénot

Lucinda Timmermans

Manfred Sellink

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- Examines the humour, imagery, and symbolism to be found in Pieter Bruegel the Elder's *Fight Between Carnival and Lent*
- 2019 marks 450 years since the death of Bruegel
- The exhibition *Pieter Bruegel the Elder* will run from 2 October 2018 to 13 January 2019, in the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, and the exhibition *The World of Bruegel* will be on display in the Bokrijk Open-Air Museum from 6 April to 20 October 2019

In 2019, it will be 450 years since the death of Pieter Bruegel the Elder (c. 1526/28-1569). To mark this anniversary, the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna is organising the first ever retrospective of Bruegel's work, while *The World of Bruegel* will be shown in the Bokrijk Open-Air Museum. The two institutions are joining forces to bring Bruegel's masterpiece *The Fight Between Carnival and Lent* (1559) to life. An important key in this respect are the numerous everyday objects that are depicted in the painting. In collaboration with the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen (Rotterdam) and the Rijksmuseum (Amsterdam), the props that Bruegel depicted have been examined and interpreted from a contemporary perspective. The authors allow the objects to speak for themselves, preceded by an introductory essay by curator Sabine Pénot of the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna. Just as Bruegel's paintings were 'conversation pieces' in their day, intended to trigger a discussion between guests during dinners, this book presents a three-way conversation about *The Fight Between Carnival and Lent* through Bruegel realia, in which art history (Katrien Lichtert), historical design (Alexandra van Dongen and Lucinda Timmermans) and literature (Abdelkader Benali) enter into a dialogue. In *A Conversation Piece*, the authors reveal the humour, symbolism, imagery and hidden stories behind the everyday objects in the painting. The exhibition *Pieter Bruegel the Elder* will run from 2 October 2018 to 13 January 2019 in the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, and the exhibition *The World of Bruegel* will be on display in the Bokrijk Open-Air Museum from 6 April to 20 October 2019.

**Alexandra van Dongen** is curator at the Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam.

**Sabine Penot** is curator at the Kunsthistorisch Museum in Vienna and Bruegel expert.

**Lucinda Timmermans** is curator at the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam.

**Manfred Sellinck** is director of the Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp and Bruegel expert.

**Katrien Lichtert** is a Bruegel expert.

**Abdelkader Benali** is a literary author, famous in Belgium and the Netherlands.