



Dancing Peasants at a St. Sebastian's Kermis

A Rediscovered Painting by Pieter Bruegel the Elder

Maximiliaan P.J. Martens

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After it first surfaced in public, *Dancing Peasants at a St. Sebastian's Kermis* was recognised as a work by Pieter Bruegel the Elder, among others by Max Friedländer, the great connoisseur of Flemish painting. However, after it entered the collection of Baroness Bentinck-Thyssen-Bornemisza, the scholarly interest in the painting diminished. When it reappeared many decades later on the art market in a heavily restored condition, its artistic qualities could no longer be appreciated. Only after a recent judicious conservation treatment, a scientific examination of its materials and a new evaluation of its painting technique and style, the painting can be returned to one of the greatest masters of Western art history, Pieter Bruegel the Elder.