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Unforgettable: Women Artists from Antwerp to Amsterdam, 1600-1750



Unforgettable
Women Artists from Antwerp to Amsterdam, 1600-1750

Virginia Treanor Frederica Van Dam **Manfred Sellink** Susan Fisher

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- Over 40 female artists showcased: revealing diverse contributions from the 17th-century Low Countries
- Diverse media: includes painting, sculpture, embroidery, glass etching, and more
- Historical re-evaluation: challenges traditional notions of gender in art and highlights women's significant role in the artistic economy
- Thematic exploration: focuses on identity, ambition, social pressures, and global networks
- Unseen legacies: highlights the undervalued works and the growing recognition of female artists today
- Accompanies an exhibition at NMWA from 26 September 2025 to 11 January 2026, and at MSK from 7 March 2026 to 31 May 2026

The catalog spotlights the overlooked contributions of female artists in the 17th-century Low Countries. While renowned male artists like Rembrandt and Vermeer have long dominated art history, female artists such as Clara Peeters and Michaelina Wautier have received limited recognition. This book challenges the notion that women were exceptions in the art world, showcasing works by over 40 artists across diverse media, including painting, sculpture, embroidery, and glass etching. It also highlights the socio-economic contexts that shaped their careers, exploring themes of identity, ambition, social expectations, and artistic networks. By reevaluating the hierarchy between "fine" and "applied" arts, the book underscores the significant role women played in the artistic economy. Through a thematic approach, **Unforgettable** aims to restore long-overdue recognition to these artists. Featuring works by: Maria Monincx, Johanna Koerten, Anna Maria De Koker, Maria Verelst, Maria De Grebber, Maria Strick, Elisabeth Rijberg, Josina Margareta Weenix, Anna Maria Janssens Cornelia Van Der Mijn e.a.

Dr. Frederica Van Dam is the Curator of Old Masters at MSK Ghent. Specializing in Early Modern Flemish painting, she co-curated Van Eyck – An Optical Revolution and led the first monographic show on Theodoor Rombouts. Dr. Virginia Treanor is the Senior Curator at the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) in Washington, D.C. She earned her Ph.D. in 17th-century Dutch and Flemish art from the University of Maryland. Since joining NMWA in 2012, Dr. Treanor has curated numerous exhibitions, including multiple installments of the "Women to Watch" series.