



## **Amsterdam Museum Presents** ***The Golden Age, gateway to our World***

13 December 2012 - 31 August 2013

**On 13 December of this year, the Amsterdam Museum opens its new exhibit *The Golden Age, gateway to our World*. This presentation tells the fascinating story of the Netherlands in the Golden Age. An age of world trade, the Dutch East India Company, the rise of an economic superpower, wealth, silver, regents, cultural and religious diversity, flourishing science, immortal paintings and the construction of the Amsterdam canal ring. But also an age of slavery and war. The Amsterdam Museum tells the story of the Dutch Golden Age in stirring fashion, with the latest multimedia techniques and a treasure trove of world-class pieces by Rembrandt, Pieter de Hooch, Maerten de Vos, Dirck Hals and Melchior d'Hondecoeter, to name just a few.**

### **A society in development**

The 17th century is a historical period that continues to fire the imagination, and a time that is considered to be the foundation for the Netherlands as we know it today. The year 2013 will see commemorations of the 400th anniversary of the building of the Amsterdam canal ring and the 150th anniversary of the abolishment of slavery. What better moment to spotlight this turbulent century in a new exhibition? The production presents a unique perspective on the society of the Netherlands of the day, a society in the midst of enormous upheaval and movement. The exhibit highlights the impact these changes had on politics, religion, economy and culture, and what they meant in the lives of real people, from serving maid to sailor to merchant.

### **Presentation of showpieces**

The Amsterdam Museum tells the story of the Dutch Golden Age with cutting-edge new media and world-class historic pieces. One such piece is Melchior d' Hondcoeter's *Vogels voor het stadhuis*, an exotic illustration of the new urban extension of Amsterdam in 1613 and the economic prosperity of the day. Alongside masterpieces like Rembrandt's *Elsje Christiaens* and *Tending the orphans* by Jan de Bray, a number of other extraordinary objects will be on display, such as a forgotten chest filled with 17th century letters and the death mask of a Dutch general. The openness of 17th century society allowed an incredible variety of cultural expression, and that richness and variety will be seen in pieces by Rembrandt, Pieter de Hooch, Maerten de Vos, Dirck Hals and many others.

### **Bridging past and present**

The exhibit presents the society of then as the birthplace of the Netherlands of now. History is linked to the present at every turn. The series of contemporary portraits by photographer Hendrik Kerstens, which allude to the Dutch Masters of the 17th century, are particularly evocative as a modern echo of the olden days.

**Amsterdam Museum, Kalverstraat 92, Amsterdam, the Netherlands**

**Opening hours: daily 10:00 AM-5:00 PM**

**[www.amsterdammuseum.nl](http://www.amsterdammuseum.nl)**

### **About the Amsterdam Museum**

The Amsterdam Museum tells the story of the city of Amsterdam: its past, present, and future. The Amsterdam Museum is not only a museum about Amsterdam, but its goal is to be a museum for and about the residents of Amsterdam as well. Each year the Amsterdam Museum and the associated Museum Willet-Holthuysen receive 250,000 visitors from the Netherlands and abroad. The Amsterdam Museum receives support from the *BankGiro Loterij*, a Dutch lottery which supports cultural organisations.

### Note for editors:

*For more information and images, please contact Martine Willekens, the Amsterdam Museum's press officer, at [pr@amsterdammuseum.nl](mailto:pr@amsterdammuseum.nl) or +31 (0)6-53600431.*