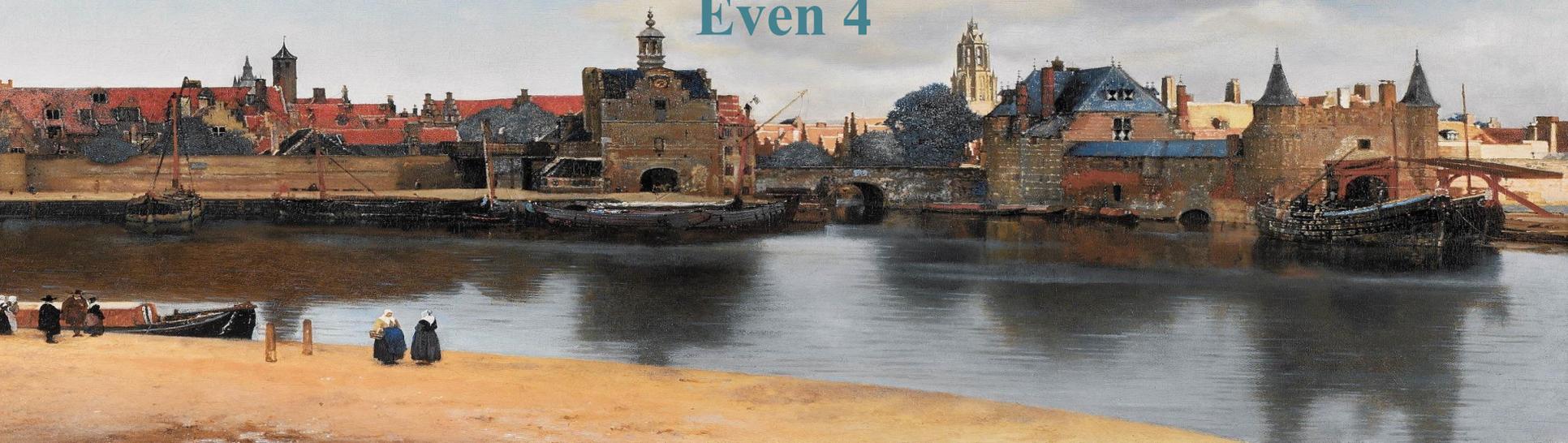


Johannes Vermeer

ReAnne Cook

Even 4





Early Years

Johannes Vermeer was born on October 31, 1632 in the city Delft, Holland, Dutch Republic which is now known as the Netherlands. His mother was Digna Baltens and his father was Reijnier Janszoon. They were both middle-class innkeepers and silk weavers in Delft. His father was a member of the St. Luke's Guild, where he traded and sold various paintings. Johannes learned all about art through this profession.



Early Years Continued

When Johannes Vermeer was a child, he spent most of his life in Delft. Delft was a small town that made its living from breweries, porcelain, and tapestries. Johannes was raised Protestant. He painted everyday images due to the fact that Protestant Dutch society held the natural aspects of life. Because of his father's professions, by 1641 the family was prosperous to purchase a large house containing an inn called the Mechelen on the market square. Little is known about Johannes' childhood.





Education

Not much is known about Johannes' education. Vermeer inherited both the inn he once lived in and the art dealing business when his father passed away in October 1652. He decided that he wanted to pursue a career as a painter. Johannes' education and training still remains a mystery. However, people think that in the 1640s, he was enrolled as an apprentice painter of his father who was willing to pay the fees to hope of a promising future for his son. The lack of evidence makes it very hard to figure out who was Johannes' teacher but some people think that Rembrandt's pupil, Carel Fabritius, provided his training.



Adult - Early Years

Johannes Vermeer lived in Delft his whole life. When he married his wife, he moved into the large house of his stepmother's. His step mother was a distant relative of the Utrecht painter, [Abraham Bloemaert](#). Shortly afterwards, he decided to paint for the rest of his life. He raised his children in this house and lived there for the rest of his life with his wife and family.



Early Years - Influences/Friends

The Guild of St. Luke was a large influence on Johannes. The guild showed Johannes classicism. Johannes used this technique with most of his paintings. When Johannes was young, he signed up to become a master painter there. Some of Johannes' friends consisted of [Constantijn Huygens](#) and [Van Leeuwenhoek](#). Some people say Rembrandt's pupil, [Carel Fabritius](#), was an influence on him as well. They all focused on a paint style called Baroque (see slide 11).



Personal Life

In April 1653, Vermeer married Catharine Bolnes who was a young Catholic woman from Papenhoek of Delft. This led Johannes to convert from the Protestant faith to Catholicism. Catharine and Johannes had a total of 15 children together but sadly, 4 of them died at birth so they only had 11 children. Johannes' daughters were Maria Vermeer, Cornelia Vermeer, Catharina Vermeer, Aleydis Vermeer, Gertruyd Vermeer, Elisabeth Vermeer, and Beatrix Vermeer. His sons were Franciscus Vermeer, Johannes Vermeer Jr, and Ignatius Vermeer. They had another child, however, the gender and name is unknown. Catharine modeled for many of her husband's great works including *Woman Holding a Balance* and *Woman Reading a Letter*. Johannes also included various images of his children in his paintings, such as *The Little Street*.



First Works of Art

One of Johannes Vermeer's first paintings was called *Diana and her Nymphs*. It was created 1653-1654. The goddess Diana is taking a rest with her nymphs. She is the goddess of hunting and of the night.



First Works of Art

Another of Johannes Vermeer's first paintings was called the *Christ in the House of Martha and Mary*. It was created 1654–1655. During this, he achieved an unlikely mixture of Anthony van Dyck and Hendrick ter Brugghen, which are other seventeenth-century artists. Christ praised Mary's willingness to sit and listen to his teachings, while Martha was working on housekeeping.

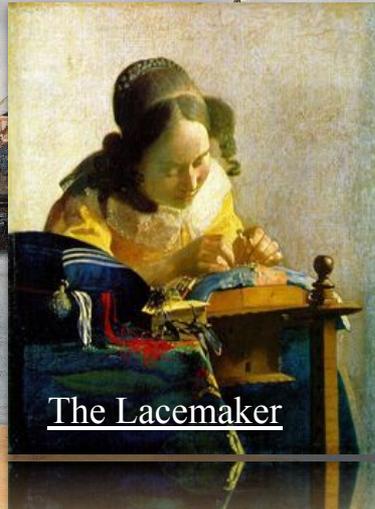


Style

Johannes Vermeer has a unique art style. His main focus at first was on Biblical scenes. His newer focus was about everyday life scenes from neighborhoods in the city of Delft. His medium was on oil paintings. He mostly painted about women and their everyday life. His subject matter depicts ordinary people and narratives of daily life in the 17th century. He rarely did self portraits. To create the astounding effects of light and shadow, it is believed that Vermeer used a camera obscura.



Girl with the Red Hat



The Lacemaker



Style - Continued

Johannes Vermeer is famous for using baroque in his artwork. Baroque started around the 1600s and didn't end until the 1740s. Baroque is a style of architecture, music, dance, painting, sculpture and other arts that flourished in Europe. It contrasts movement, detail, deep color, and surprise to achieve a sense of awe. Famous painters such as Caravaggio and Rembrandt used this same style.



The Calling of St Matthew

The Jewish Bride



Works - Famous

Johannes' most famous artwork piece is called *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. It is currently located in the Mauritshuis museum in The Hague which is a city in the Netherlands.



<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Girl-with-a-Pearl-Earring-by-Vermeer>

Works - Famous Continued

Girl with a Pearl Earring represents a young woman in a dark shallow space, an intimate setting that draws the viewer's attention exclusively on her. She wears a blue and gold turban, the titular pearl earring, and a gold jacket with a visible white collar beneath. She is not concentrating on daily life and is unaware of who is looking at her. She turns her head over her shoulder, meeting a viewer's gaze with her eyes wide and lips parted as if about to speak. It was created around 1665. It is around the size of 17.52 × 15.35 inches, it is an oil canvas, and was created around the Dutch Golden Age.



Critique

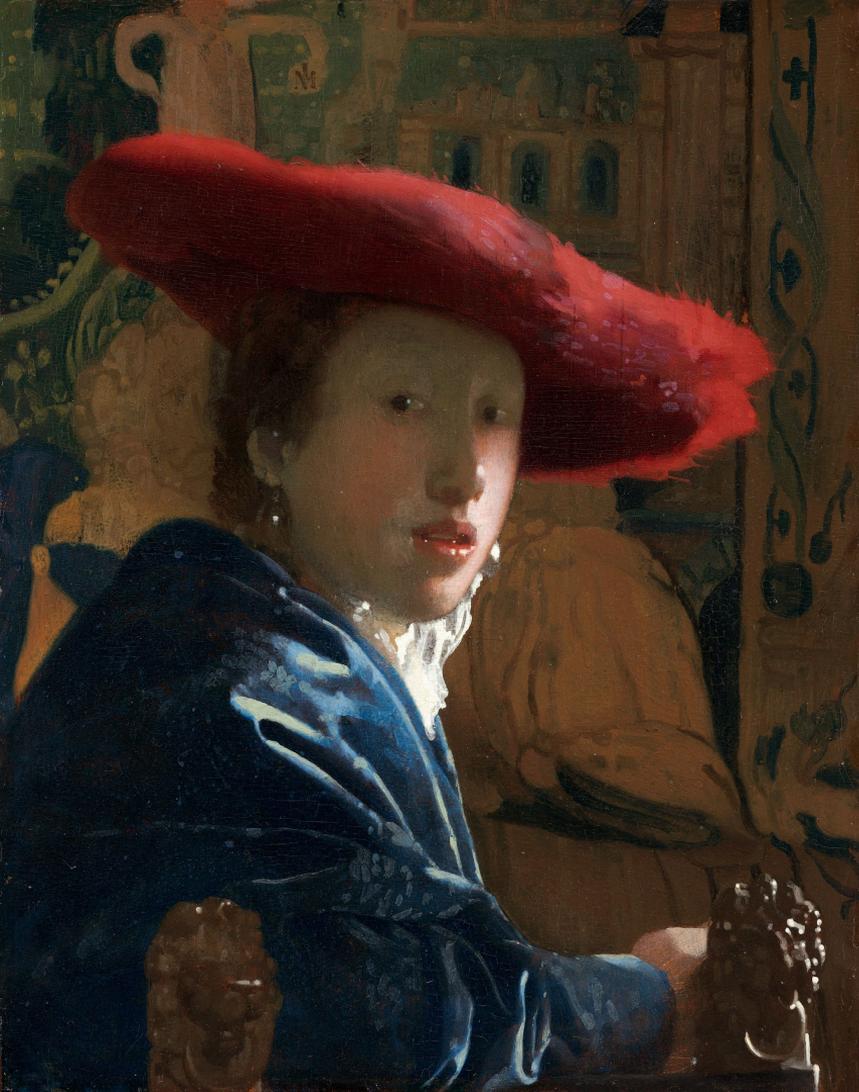
The heavily anticipated "Girl With a Pearl Earring: Dutch Paintings From the Mauritshuis," which opens Saturday at the de Young Museum, does not disappoint. It will remind visitors how great artworks can unstring our sense of time. For instance, Johannes Vermeer's mid-17th century "Girl With a Pearl Earring" - the signature work of the show and of its lender, the Royal Picture Gallery Mauritshuis in The Hague - inspired a best-selling novel and a Hollywood movie in recent years. Yet despite the painting's age, despite the heavy case work that secures it at the de Young, we and "The Girl" seem to inhabit a common time in a way that its mere physical survival cannot explain. Critique by Kenneth Baker.



Your Critique

I think that this painting is absolutely gorgeous. It's simply yet elegant. It is for sure one of my favorite artworks to ever be created. Johannes did such an excellent job collecting the light and darkness equally in this art piece. The only thing that I would change would to add a background. Instead of the background being a solid color, add an everyday life background. Maybe the woman could be at a cafe with people eating in the background or she could be at a play and then turning her head to greet people. Otherwise that, it is beautifully done.





Other Works

Another one of Johannes' art pieces is called *Girl with a Red Hat*. This is my second favorite piece of artwork by Johannes. Another one would be the *View of Delft* which I have used as the background throughout this slideshow.



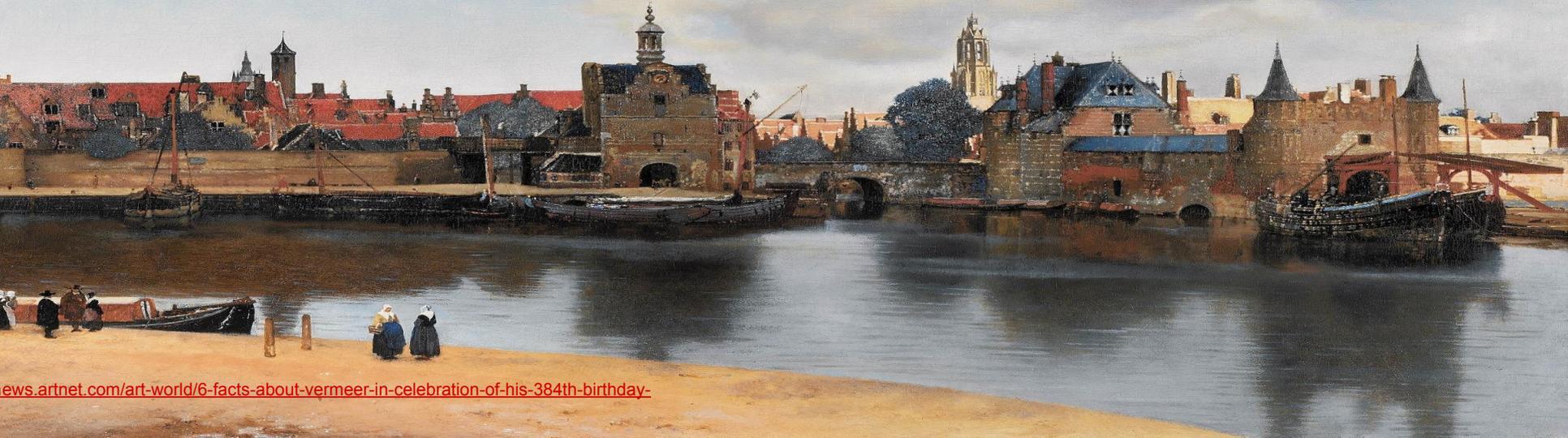
Importance

Johannes Vermeer is a very important artist. He is one of the many first Dutch artists that used the art style, baroque. He has inspired many other artists during his time. His paintings show the purity of light and form. He taught the world to see ordinary beauty. Not much is known about what artists were inspired by him. However, Leonard Bramer was one of his first and early fans and grew to create pieces inspired by him.



Other/Facts

- Johannes Vermeer's achievements went barely unnoticed throughout his life and centuries followed
- There are only 36 authenticated paintings by Vermeer in the entire world
- An artist back in the day copied and forged Vermeers' sold works
- He never questioned the role and impact of painting
- He was obsessed with developing new painting techniques



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