

**Released: November 2008**

Photo Call: Friday 21 November 2008 at 11.30am



Hendrick Goltzius (1558-1617)

*Bust of a Man Wearing a Tasselled Cap* (1587)

Pen and brown ink on paper, 47.5 x 35.4 cm

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## **DUTCH MANNERISM: GOLTZIUS AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES**

**22 November 2008 – 8 February 2009**

**NATIONAL GALLERY COMPLEX, The Mound, Edinburgh, EH2 2EL**

**Telephone 0131 6246 6200; recorded information 0131 332 2266**

[www.nationalgalleries.org](http://www.nationalgalleries.org)

*Admission free*

The National Gallery of Scotland invites you to view some treasures from its collection and celebrate the ‘Dawn of the Golden Age’ of Dutch Art this autumn. *Dutch Mannerism* focuses on two major acquisitions made by the National Gallery of Scotland in recent years: Hendrick Goltzius’ extraordinary drawing of a *Bust of a Man with a Tasselled Cap* and Abraham Bloemaert’s splendid painting, *Miracle of the Loaves*. These masterpieces will be shown beside approximately 30 prints and drawing from the permanent collection including examples by Goltzius’ contemporaries, Jacob Matham, Jan Saenredam, and Jacques de Gheyn.

The word ‘Mannerism’ derives from the Italian *maniera* and this style of art is usually associated with Italian painting, sculpture and architecture of the period between the High Renaissance and

the Baroque. Dutch Mannerism, however, was the predominant style in the art of the Northern Netherlands from about the 1580s until the 1610s and developed from the Netherlandish tradition blended with Italian and German art. Paintings, drawings and prints of Dutch Mannerism are among the most sophisticated and celebrated works of Dutch Art and form the brilliant 'Dawn of the Golden Age'.

The most important artist of Dutch Mannerism is Hendrick Goltzius. In 1587 he produced one of his most memorable drawings, the *Bust of a Man with a Tasselled Cap*. This large pen drawing is undoubtedly the most extraordinary addition of recent decades to Goltzius's oeuvre. An unknown work until acquired in 2000 by the National Galleries of Scotland from the collection of the Duke of Buccleuch at Boughton House (Kettering, Northamptonshire), it probably came from an album bought by one of the Dukes of Montagu in the eighteenth century. The sheet is dominated by the fleshy head of a man with huge double chins, wearing a high cap with flaps and a tassel and shows Goltzius's technical virtuosity and his power of imagination.

Goltzius along with fellow artists Van Mander and Cornelis Cornelisz van Haarlem founded the 'Haarlem Academy'. While we do not know how long it existed or how it worked the impact of the three artists on Dutch art cannot be overestimated. While Haarlem clearly was the centre of Dutch Mannerism, there was also a distinct Utrecht Mannerism style represented by Abraham Bloemaert and Joachim Wtewael. Bloemaert's painting, *The Miracle of the Loaves* - where Christ is shown with the five loaves and two fishes which will feed the five thousand - is typical of mannerist painting as the main scene takes place in the middle distance, and is framed and partly obscured by monumental figures in the foreground. Bloemaert painted this work shortly after staying in Amsterdam in 1591-2 which had given him the opportunity to meet artists from Haarlem. It is the earliest surviving depiction he made of this rarely depicted subject.

Bloemaert was also a prolific draughtsman. Other treats on show include *Venus Appeals to Cupid to Make Pluto Fall in Love with Proserpina* which dates from the same period as the painting in the National Gallery of Scotland and *Chariclea Crowning Theagenes* which is a preparatory drawing for a painting of 1626. Both works show Bloemaert's interest in unusual subjects from

Antiquity and how he continued to use mannerist forms and compositions throughout his long career.

For further information and images please contact the National Galleries of Scotland press office on 0131 624 6325/6314/6332/6247 or [pressinfo@nationalgalleries.org](mailto:pressinfo@nationalgalleries.org).

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**Notes to editors:**

There will be two lectures in conjunction with this exhibition:

- *Dutch Mannerism: Goltzius and his Contemporaries* (WL), Hawthornden Lecture Theatre by Tico Seifert, Senior Curator at the National Gallery of Scotland – Fri 28 November, 12.45 – 1.30pm
- *Michelangelo and Italian Sources of Dutch Mannerism*, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre by Michael Bury – Tuesday 2 December, 12.45 – 1.30pm

A booklet, *Dutch Mannerism*, has been published by the National Galleries of Scotland to coincide with the exhibition.