

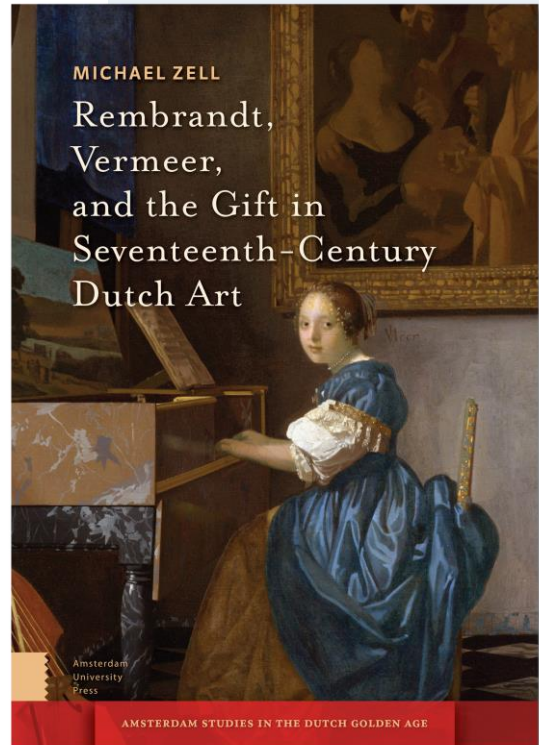
Michael Zell

Rembrandt, Vermeer, and the Gift in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Art

Rembrandt, Vermeer, and the Gift in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Art offers a new perspective on the art of the Dutch Golden Age by exploring the interaction between the gift's symbolic economy of reciprocity and obligation and the artistic culture of early modern Holland. Gifts of art were pervasive in seventeenth-century Europe, and many Dutch artists, like their counterparts elsewhere, embraced gift giving to cultivate relations with patrons, art lovers, and other members of their social networks. Rembrandt also created distinctive works to function within a context of gift exchange, and both Rembrandt and Vermeer engaged the ethics of the gift to identify their creative labor as motivated by what contemporaries called a "love of art," not materialistic gain. In the merchant republic's vibrant market for art, networks of gift relations and the anti-economic rhetoric of the gift mingled with the growing dimension of commerce, revealing a unique chapter in the interconnected history of gift giving and art making.

BIOGRAPHY

Michael Zell is Associate Professor of Art History at Boston University. He is the author of *Reframing Rembrandt: Jews and the Christian Image in Seventeenth-Century Amsterdam* (2002), and co-editor of *Rethinking Rembrandt* (2002) and *'Ut pictura amor': The Reflexive Imagery of Love in Artistic Theory and Practice, 1500-1700* (2017).



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Illustrations

Acknowledgments

Introduction

Chapter 1: The Gift in Early Modernity

Chapter 2: Art as Gift in the Seventeenth Century

Chapter 3: Artists' Gifts in the Seventeenth Century

Chapter 4: Rembrandt's Art as Gift

Chapter 5: Art and Leisure: Amateur Artists, Rembrandt, and Landscape Representation

Chapter 6: For the Love of Art: Vermeer and the Poetics of the Gift

Conclusion

Bibliography

Index

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