



Universiteit
Leiden

Oil Paint and Printer's Ink: Intermedial Crossover in Dutch Theatre and Painting, 1638-1672

Applicants

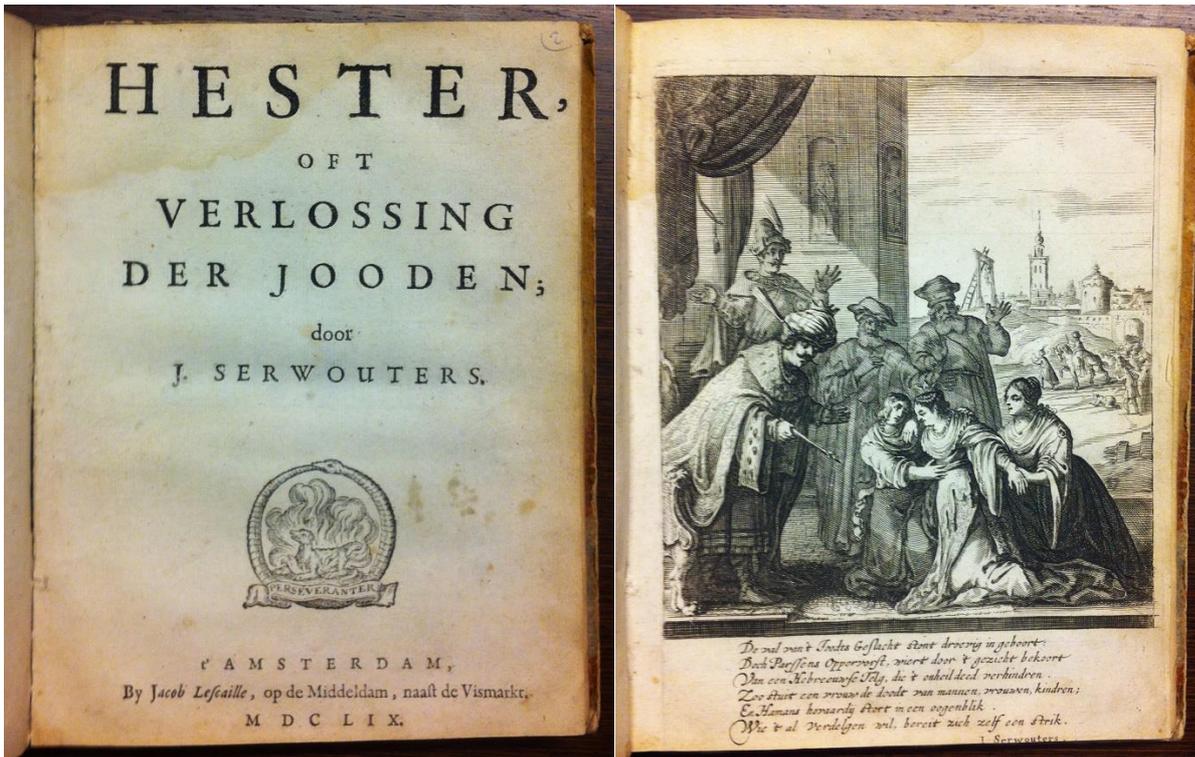
Supervisor Name	Institute
dr. Olga van Marion	LUCAS
dr. Marion Boers	LUCAS

Project description

Theatre and history painting show many similarities: both evoke imaginary worlds, draw on the same stereotypes and subjects, and they share certain theoretical notions and strategies to communicate with their audiences. Playwrights incorporated themes and vogues from the visual arts in their stage dramas. For example, for his big theatre hit of *Joseph in Dothan* Joost van den Vondel took inspiration from a Jan Pynas painting and attempted 'to match the painter's colours, and his drawing of actions and passions as closely as possible in words'. On the other hand, painters such as Jan Steen referred to stage performances in their art works (see illustrations 1-3). Theatres like the Amsterdamse Schouwburg engaged many painters as artistic designers of costumes, sceneries, or front cover illustrations in printed play books. Some directors of the Schouwburg were fervent collectors of dramatic paintings. The aim of this project is to systematically relate what was shown in the Amsterdamse Schouwburg with what was seen in history paintings in the years 1638-1672 (The Schouwburg opened its doors in 1638 and was closed in the disaster year of 1672, only to reopen many years later).

The intriguing relationship between painting and theatre did not suffer from a lack of scholarly attention. However, the studies on the topic often make unsubstantiated claims as the studies are restricted to isolated cases and they approach the topic either from an art historical perspective or from a literary historical point of view. By contrast, in this project an art historian and a literary historian will work together in creating a systematical chronological overview of thematically related plays and paintings. This is interdisciplinary research, combining insights into the history of Dutch drama, how plays were performed and which dramatic stereotypes and theoretical notions were implied and art historical research into the iconography of paintings and the dramatic strategies used by the artists.

The project will make use of existing facilities and databases like ONSTAGE (Online Datasystem of Theatre in Amsterdam in the Golden Age, <http://www.vondel.humanities.uva.nl/onstage/>) and the database of the RKD (Dutch Institute for Art History, <https://rkd.nl/nl/>). The created overview will be integrated into the ONSTAGE database.



Illustrations 1-3: Crossover between the print edition of Joannes Serwouters' play *Hester, oft verlossing der Jooden* ('Hester, or the salvation of the Jews' (Amsterdam, 1659)) and Jan Steen's *Esther before Ahasuerus* (106×83.5cm, oil on panel, late 1660s, Hermitage Saint Petersburg).

Research Trainee Profile

The trainees should have a broad knowledge of Dutch history and culture in the early modern period. The trainees should also have extensive knowledge on and experience with research approaches to early modern literature or painting, or both. Trainees should be fluent in Dutch, and need to be able to read academic texts in English. Research trainees should have substantial skill in analysis of text or image, and preferably some experience with both. We aim for one student with a literary studies background, and one student with an art history background. Very good third year-BA, MA and ResMA students are eligible to apply.

The research trainees will have the following tasks. The trainees will collect and evaluate previous research on the relations between theatre and visual arts. Both trainees will write a short review paper (2000 words), which will help them to position themselves in the co-authored academic article they will write later on. After the trainees have acquainted themselves with this particular field of research, they will start to identify primary sources, both textual and visual. The trainees will work to combine images and data from the RKD database and ONSTAGE. With the collaboration of dr. Frans R.E. Blom of the University of Amsterdam the overview will form a new addition to the ONSTAGE database. Subsequently, the trainees will conduct research making use of the newly compiled database. Their research will result in a co-authored academic article, in which they will combine their knowledge and skill in their respective fields. The article will be submitted to a journal and needs to showcase the interdisciplinary research possibilities of the new database. The trainees will present their work on the database at an academic conference and will demonstrate the possibilities of the database on the basis of their research. Furthermore, the trainees will provide a demonstration of the possibilities of the new database add-on for high school education on a 'nascholingsdag' for high school teachers. For example, they could show how the new database could be of use for students who are writing their 'profielwerkstuk'.

Collaboration

Literature and visual arts meet in the Amsterdamse Schouwburg, but up until now research into the relationship between painting and theatre has only been done from a literary/theatre historical point of view or from an art historical perspective. This project will stimulate art historians and literary historians to work together on this topic, which is so interdisciplinary in nature. More generally speaking, scholars of literature and visual arts could work together more closely on many fronts. This project is a demonstration of the possibilities: it will showcase what happens if scholars from both fields combine their knowledge and skill to work together on a project.

Deliverables

1. The research trainees will compile a bibliography of secondary sources.
2. The trainees will both write a short review paper, which will be of use for the co-authored academic article they will write.
3. The trainees will create an overview of related visual and literary theatrical sources for the period 1638-1672 that is to be integrated with ONSTAGE (see illustration 4).
4. The trainees will write a co-authored academic article, which they will submit to a journal and in which they will demonstrate the interdisciplinary possibilities of the new part of ONSTAGE.
5. The trainees will present their work and demonstrate the possibilities of the new database at an academic conference.
6. The trainees will demonstrate the possibilities of the new database for high school education.



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ONSTAGE

Online Datasystem of Theatre in Amsterdam in the Golden Age

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About ONSTAGE

This is your address for questions about the repertoire, performances, popularity and revenues of the cultural program in Amsterdam's public theatre during the period 1637 - 1772. All data provided in this system links to archival source materials in contemporary administration.

The [Shows](#) page gives you access by date to chronological lists of the theater program, and the plays staged per day. At the [Plays](#) page you have access to the repertoire by title, and for each play you will find its performances and revenues throughout time. At the [Persons](#) page you can access the data for playwrights, actors and actresses, and translators involved in the rich national and international variety of the Amsterdam Theater productions.

Scene from Bredero's 'Lucelle' by Jan Miense Molenaer (1636), oil on panel, Mulderstot.

Illustration 4: Homepage of database ONSTAGE (<http://www.vondel.humanities.uva.nl/onstage/>). One of the aims of this project is to create an 'Artworks page' that links images with plays.

Planning

1 January 2018 - 15 February 2018: compilation of bibliography and writing of review papers. Two sessions with the supervisors.

1 February - 30 April: Compilation of list of primary sources and creation of the overview for database ONSTAGE. Two sessions with the supervisors.

1 May - 31 August 2018: Writing of the academic article. Continued work on the overview for the database. Presentation of research and database. Four sessions with the supervisors.

1 September - end of year: Trainees take care of submission of their article. Presentation of research and database. One session with the supervisors.

Student Application

Applications should include a short motivational letter (500 words), a resume and a recently written academic paper. Applications should be sent to o.van.marion@umail.leidenuniv.nl and m.e.w.boers@hum.leidenuniv.nl.