

The Girl in the Spotlight:

A Technical Examination of Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring*

WEDNESDAY

9.18 @ 6 PM

Mortara Center
Georgetown University
3600 N Street NW
Washington DC

Reception following the talk.

Dr. Abbie Vandivere

Conservator of Paintings
Mauritshuis, The Hague,
Netherlands

Abbie Vandivere will discuss the recent technical examination of Johannes Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring* (c. 1665), the most beloved painting in the collection of the Mauritshuis in The Hague, The Netherlands. The Mauritshuis wanted to learn more about how Vermeer painted the *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, as well as the materials that he used. In 2018 the painting was the subject of an in-depth scientific examination project: *The Girl in the Spotlight*. The technical examination was conducted over a 2-week period in front of the museum public. An international team of experts used the latest scientific technology to examine the *Girl*, including: macro x-ray fluorescence scanning, near-infrared imaging, optical coherence tomography, 3D digital microscopy, macro-xray powder diffraction, colour/gloss/topography scanning, and the re-examination of paint samples taken 1994.



photo: Ivo Hoekstra

The Speaker: Dr. Abbie Vandivere is a Paintings Conservator at the Mauritshuis, and the Head Researcher for the project *The Girl in the Spotlight*. She also coordinates the Technical Art History MA programme at the University of Amsterdam. She received her PhD in 2013: 'From the Ground Up: Surface and Sub-surface effects in Early Netherlandish Paintings.' Before this, she received her postgraduate diploma in Paintings Conservation from the Courtauld Institute in London, and BA from Princeton University.

Questions and requests for accommodation should be directed to artinfo@georgetown.edu

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