

Making the Difference: Vermeer and Dutch Art

The Ueno Royal Museum Oct.5.2018 ~Feb.3.2019

Johannes Vermeer (1632-75), the Dutch painter who represents the Dutch Golden Age. The tension within the mysterious atmosphere in his works, the technique in his paintings which captures the fine specks of light have led some to call him the 'Master of Light'. Only a small number of Vermeer paintings are known which make his popularity even more special.

Although Vermeer is now known to be a popular artist around the world, his recognition was actually founded only recently. With the small number of paintings known by him, such painters like Rubens and Rembrandt was much better known than Vermeer.

His popularity exploded in 1995-96 when the exhibition, 'Johannes Vermeer' was held in Washington D.C. and in Den Haag in the Netherlands. Around 60% of his known paintings, over 20 paintings were exhibited together for the first time in history which gathered a lot of attention, which resulted in lengthy lines at each exhibition, and a burst of popularity for Vermeer's works.



The Milkmaid



Christ in the House of Martha and Mary



Woman Writing a Letter, with her Maid



The Wine Glass

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[Official Website: www.vermeer.jp](http://www.vermeer.jp)

With the back-wind of the increasing popularity, the first Vermeer exhibition was held in Osaka, Japan in the year 2000. The exhibition 'The Public and the Private in the Age of Vermeer' held at the Osaka Municipal Museum of Art recorded around 600,000 visitors to the exhibition over the period of just 3 months.

From this, the Vermeer Boom picked up speed, and from then on, many exhibitions with Vermeer as its main attraction were held in Japan.

The exhibition with the record number of visitors in Tokyo was in 2008, the exhibition 'Vermeer and the Delft Style' held at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum.

With 7 paintings of Vermeer exhibited, this exhibition achieved a record number of visitors of 930,000. This exhibition in October will exceed record with 8 paintings, including works which are yet to be exhibited here in Japan.



A Lady Writing



Girl with the Red Hat



The Woman with a Lute



The Woman with
a Pearl Necklace

**This exhibition will also be held at the Osaka City Museum of Fine Arts from February 16th till May 12th, 2019. Some of the exhibits will differ. More information in regards to the exhibition will follow at a late date.*