

Visiting Scholar Remote Lecture:

Wayne Franits

Imaging Africans in the Dutch Republic

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5:30 PM CST

Zoom Webinar

Wayne Franits (1956) is Distinguished Professor of Art History at Syracuse University. He is a specialist in seventeenth-century Dutch and Flemish art and holds a Ph.D. in Art History from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University (1987). His extensive publications have explored a variety of topics within the field, ranging from genre painting and portraiture to the work of the Dutch followers of Caravaggio. In recent years, Franits has published books on the early seventeenth-century Dutch painter Dirck van Baburen (2013), on Johannes Vermeer (2015), on Godefridus Schalcken (2018) as well as *The Ashgate Research Companion to Dutch Art of the Seventeenth Century* (2016).

Imaging Africans in the Dutch Republic: Although the portrayal of Africans in Dutch art can be tied to the flourishing Dutch slave trade during the seventeenth century the equation is not one-to-one. The situation is a bit more complicated than the art of the period would lead us to believe. At times, blacks in Dutch art were rendered in a relatively realistic manner yet at other times, their portrayal is caricatured and conventional. And all the while, the precious few black residents of the Dutch Republic could declare their freedom in a country that profited immensely from the slave trade but declared slavery illegal on the home front. As this lecture will demonstrate, it is best to approach the art and culture of the Dutch Republic with an understanding that matters are never straightforward and, in fact, can be considerably more complex and nuanced than meets the eye. ■



Rembrandt van Rijn
Two African Men
1661