

Saints and Sinners – 14 September 2017

A wonderful title for a wonderful talk – Jane Choy was our hostess on a wet Thursday morning, and having enjoyed coffee and home-made brownies, we settled down to listen. She began by showing us a film of the amazing return of a very famous lady's world tour to her rightful place in the Mauritshuis. Jane, intending to talk for an hour, suddenly realised, as did we, that two hours had gone by. So engrossed were we by her explanations on paintings in the Mauritshuis depicting women, as well as some by women painters, we had no idea of how quickly the morning had flown. Her quirky sense of humour disguised a deep knowledge of the paintings she showed us, and we were shown how much of a painting is hidden in the small details: how much you can learn about the times, life-styles, characters portrayed, myths and suppositions. The description of the Mauritshuis as "the greatest of the small and the smallest of the great museums" is very apt – it's a beautiful setting for a wonderful collection.

