



219th Lecture Series 7.30pm - 16 December 2020



Prof Erma Hermens

Catching the artist's skill: a journey of discovery and wonder

ABSTRACT

We are often marveling at the 17th-century painter's skillful and realistic rendering of materials such as glass, metal, fur and human skin, or at the technical ingenuity of the goldsmith or glassblower, who manipulate their materials with such sophistication. Through a multidisciplinary approach, combining expertise and methods from technical art historical research with scientific analyses and imaging techniques, we try to unravel the act of making in all its facets, idiosyncrasies, and of course secrecy. In this talk I will discuss this process of unravelling, discovery and wonder, through fascinating case studies, also demonstrating our limitations, despite all this technology, in trying to get under the skin of the artist and artisan.

BIOGRAPHY

Erma Hermens is Rijksmuseum Professor in studio practice and technical art history, University of Amsterdam, and senior researcher at the Rijksmuseum, Department of Conservation of Science, where she works with interdisciplinary teams, liaising between curators, conservators and scientists, combining art historical and contextual research of objects with scientific analytical data, digital imaging, and art technological source research.

LINKS

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Erma_Hermens2

<https://lookingthroughartblog.wordpress.com/author/technicalarthistoryblog/>

The talk will be given over Zoom and if you would like to join the webinar please email info@royalphil.org and joining information will be sent to you.