

The scientific investigation demonstrates the central role of the Preparatory study as a template, testing ground, and reference for the Portrait painting. It documents the artistic process, supports authentication, and provides a valuable foundation for art-historical research.

Subject of Research and Objectives.

The focus was on the scientific analysis and systematic comparison of the signed preparatory study and the final Portrait painting. Dr. Sam Segal led the scientific investigation and discovered the signed preparatory study in 2002. The goal was to examine and document the creation, authenticity, and artistic development of both works.

Methodology

- Systematic documentation and macro-comparison of every individual motif element in the Preparatory study with the Portrait painting, covering a total area of over 65,000 square centimeters.
- Historical and conservation documentation of the Preparatory study (photographs from 1926, 1941, IRR Osiris A1, before the restoration and restoration 2006).
- Collaboration with experts such as Dr. Sam Segal (1933-2018) and conservator Evert Douwes VII (1928-2019, founding member of the (TEFAF).

Key findings

- The Preparatory study demonstrably served as a direct model for the floral and faunal elements of the Portrait painting.
- Over 50 compositional elements from the Preparatory study were not included in the Portrait-Painting, or only partially so, which demonstrates that the Preparatory study served as a space for creative experimentation.
- Three documented pentimenti attest to the artistic creative process.
- The study is executed on the same scale as the Portrait-painting and focuses exclusively on the elements painted by J.D.de Heem (flowers, fruits, insects).

Significance for Research

This art-historical analysis provides new insights into the genesis, authenticity, and attribution of works by Jan Davidsz. de Heem. The newly developed method of systematic detailed comparison serves as a model for future studies.

This preliminary study opens up extensive research potential, particularly with regard to the artist's work on paper and his artistic development.