

Seventeenth Century Dutch Culture On View At Historic Huguenot Street



Jean Hasbrouck House (circa 1721), Historic Huguenot Street, New Paltz, NY. —Pieter Estersohn, photo, 2017, courtesy Historic Huguenot Street

NEW PALTZ, N.Y. — Historic Huguenot Street (HHS) presents the exhibition “Living in Style: Selections from the George Way Collection of Dutch Fine and Decorative Art,” on view through December 17.

Featuring more than 100 Seventeenth–Eighteenth Century Dutch items from the Netherlands — including 22 oil paintings, a rich diversity of interior furnishings and decorative and utilitarian objects — the exhibition is installed in a period room in the historic Jean Hasbrouck House, circa 1721, and celebrates the Dutch culture that flourished in the 1600s and 1700s in New York State’s New Netherland Colony. A display of American- and Dutch-made kasten cupboards is also on view with more than a dozen kasten or Dutch-style cupboards from the museum’s permanent collection and selected loans throughout the Jean Hasbrouck House (circa 1721) and Abraham Hasbrouck House (circa 1721–41).

The Jean Hasbrouck House, one of seven historic house museums comprising HHS’s ten-acre National Historic Landmark District, is a notable example of traditional Eighteenth Century Dutch architecture in the Hudson Valley. The high-pitched gable roof spanning twice the depth of other stone houses from the period is thought to be unique in the United States. The interior of the house features an original open-hearth, jambless fireplace and reconstructed kruiskozijnen (crossbar windows), both typical of Dutch vernacular architecture, providing the perfect setting for the presentation.

Josephine Bloodgood, HHS director of curatorial and pres-

ervation affairs and coordinator of the project, said, “We are delighted to present ‘Living in Style’ drawn from George Way’s extraordinary collection, a special exhibition celebrating the enduring impact of Dutch settlement in the Hudson Valley. It is especially meaningful to provide our visitors with an immersive encounter by placing the objects as they would have been centuries ago in a Dutch home in the Netherlands, from furnishings and decorative objects to paintings and cooking utensils. The exhibition is a vibrant lens through which to celebrate the first Europeans to settle in Manhattan, the Hudson Valley and surrounding areas.”

Highlights from the George Way Collection include two elaborately carved side chairs based on the engraved designs of Daniel Marot, a French Huguenot architect and designer largely responsible for the interiors at William of Orange’s palace at Het Loo, The Netherlands. Marot worked for William before and after the latter became co-regent of England, Ireland and Scotland with his wife Mary II. The chairs feature serpentine stretchers, trumpet legs and ball feet, all typical of the Dutch Golden Age, an unprecedented era of economic prosperity and high artistic achievement in the arts and sciences.

Oil paintings of portraits, interiors and genre scenes, Delft ceramics and other decorative pieces adorn the room. Iron and brass utensils are featured in the jambless fireplaces.

Other furnishings in the period room include a tulip carved lift top chest with the initials of its original owners and



Pair of chairs after designs by Daniel Marot (1661–1752), circa 1690–1700, walnut, 51½ by 22 by 21½ inches.



“Two Men Smoking By a Fireplace,” Seventeenth Century, possibly by David Teniers the Elder (1582–1649), oil on panel, 6-3/8 by 5-1/8 inches

dated 1701, a graduated chest of drawers, a barley twist walnut stool and a rare, carved rack designed to hold 14 pipes.

The room also features a Dutch-made kasten, a furniture form that was popularly adapted in the Hudson Valley into the early Nineteenth Century. A complementary display featuring a massive Dutch-made kussenkast — so called for its “cushion-type” doors — and more than a dozen American-made kasten from the HHS’s permanent collection and selected loans are featured in adjacent rooms of the Jean Hasbrouck House and also in the nearby Abraham Has-

rouck House, circa 1721.

“As large, free-standing wardrobes, kasten were often the most valuable item owned by a family and central to domestic life in colonial New York. While serving a utilitarian function as the primary storage for linens, these impressive pieces were quintessential to the furnishings of Dutch American homes, signifying the heritage of the owners, as well as their wealth and social status,” said Bloodgood.

Historic Huguenot Street houses one of the largest collections of Hudson Valley kasten in the United States. This focused exhibition, “Kasten in



Plate, mid-Seventeenth Century, tin-glazed earthenware, 7-5/8-inch diameter.



Ashpan, Seventeenth Century, brass, decorated with the coat of arms of Amsterdam, 9¾ by 11¼ by 1¼ inches.



“Children Playing a Game of Skittles,” Seventeenth–Eighteenth Century, artist unknown, oil on panel, 8½ by 9½ inches.

the Mid-Hudson Valley,” gathers these cupboards from several prominent regional public and private collections, highlighting the historical uses, design and construction of these important pieces of material culture.

A National Historic Landmark District, Historic Huguenot Street is a nonprofit that encompasses 30 buildings across 10 acres that was the heart of the original 1678 New Paltz settlement, including seven stone houses that date to the early Eighteenth Century.

For information, 845-255-1660 or www.huguenotstreet.org.



“Portrait of a Lady Holding a Rose,” Seventeenth Century, Caspar Netscher (1639–1684), oil on oak panel, 19½ by 16 inches.



Jug, Seventeenth Century, tin-glazed earthenware with cobalt blue with pewter lid, 10 by 6¾ by 3¼ inches.



Cabinet on stand, Seventeenth Century, oak, 62 by 30 by 16 inches.



Installation of kasten at the Jean Hasbrouck House, showing, from left, a “country” kas on loan from Jeffrey and Sue Hoffman and kasten from the Historic Huguenot Street permanent collection and the Reformed Church of Kingston. —On Location Studios, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., photo, 2017, courtesy Historic Huguenot Street