Read a research article about how MA-XRF scanning, cross section analysis, and technical historical sources help scholars understand de Heem’s fruit and flower paintings.

Look at more masterworks by de Heem in the permanent collections worldwide, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Toledo Museum of Art, the National Gallery of Canada, Museo Thyssen, and the Crocker Art Museum.

The modern artist Henri Matisse (1869-1954) painted his own still life inspired by de Heem in 1915. Read more about the artwork, which is in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Jan Davidsz de Heem’s work was included in the 2019 exhibition Rembrandt & The Dutch Golden Age at the Museum De Lakenhal in Leiden, The Netherlands.

In 2020, one of de Heem’s paintings was rediscovered after 200 years in a private collection and sold at auction for £4 million. Watch a video of specialist Clementine Sinclair talking about the masterwork.

Jan Davidsz de Heem (Dutch, 1606–1684)
Still life of flowers in a glass vase with insects and fruits in a stone niche, n.d.
Oil on oak panel

Private Collection; L2023:27.4

As one of the most influential still life painters in the 17th century, Jan Davidsz de Heem maintained active studios in Utrecht and Antwerp throughout his career. Though de Heem did not begin bloemstilleven (Flower Still Lifes) until the 1660s, he became well-known as a “Flower and Fruit” painter and made significant contributions to the genre. Still life of flowers in a glass vase with insects and fruits in a stone niche is characteristically undated, but was likely created in the 1660s when the artist was living in Utrecht. The painting features delicate flowers and blooms from a combination of seasons bursting from a glass vase. Look closely at the vase’s reflection: the glass offers a rare glimpse into de Heem’s working studio.

On view August 9 – November 12, 2023