Osias Beert the Elder

Bouquet of Flowers in a Serpentine Vase, c. 1610-1619
Oil on panel
De Jonckheere Gallery

Osias Beert the Elder

Dishes with Oysters, Fruit, and Wine, c. 1620-1625
Oil on panel
Collection of the National Gallery of Art

Osias Beert the Elder

Read about Osias Beert the Elder’s life and career in [Artvee](#) and see a selection of his still life paintings.

Osias Beert the Elder’s work was included in a 2017 exhibition at the Mauritshuis in The Hague entitled [Slow Food: Still Lifes of the Golden Age](#). The exhibition was the first to be entirely devoted to the development of meat still lifes in Dutch painting. Read a [review](#) of the exhibition in Apollo Magazine.

In 2020, the Snite Museum of Art at Notre Dame [acquired](#) an important still life by Osias Beert the Elder for the museum’s permanent collection.

A painting by Osias Beert the Elder was interpreted by a perfumer in 2022 who created a scent to accompany the painting while at auction. Read an article about the ploy in [Apollo Magazine](#).
Osias Beert the Elder (Flemish, 1580-1624)

Still life of tulips and an apothecary’s rose in a stoneware vase, irises and lilies in a glass vase, together with roses, lilies, anemones, pansies, larkspur, borage and love-in-a-mist in a wicker basket and an oriental lacquer basquet, all upon a table-top with cabbage white and red admiral butterflies and a dragonfly, n.d.

Oil on oak panel

Private Collection; L2023:27.3

Osias Beert is thought to have spent his career in Antwerp, where he was recognized for his role in developing still life painting in the 16th and 17th centuries. Still life of tulips and an apothecary’s rose in a stoneware vase, irises and lilies in a glass vase, together with roses, lilies, anemones, pansies, larkspur, borage and love-in-a-mist in a wicker basket and an oriental lacquer basquet, all upon a table-top with cabbage white and red admiral butterflies and a dragonfly is the largest and most elaborate of Beert’s still lifes. With 96 flower variations arranged in four luxury vessels, the painting serves as a reminder of life’s fragility and ephemerality. At the same time, Beert brings together rare flowers that would never bloom simultaneously in a composition of ideal beauty that can be enjoyed year-round. With the craze for tulip blooms in Northern Europe in the early 17th century, Beert’s renditions of these flowers may have cost less than the blooms themselves.

On view August 9 – November 12, 2023