



Catherine of Cleves handing out alms; miniature from the Hours of Catherine of Cleves (c. 1440)



Promotional image for the exhibition 'Catherine's world'; composed of details from the Hours of Catherine of Cleves (c. 1440), 2009.

Catherine's world.

Devotion, demons and daily life in the 15th century.

10 October 2009 to 3 January 2010

From 10 October 2009 to 3 January 2010 Museum Het Valkhof will present the miniatures exhibition 'Catherine's world. Devotion, demons and daily life in the 15th century'.

Following the successful Limbourg Brothers exhibition in 2005, the museum will now present the most important late medieval manuscript from the Northern Netherlands: the Hours of Catherine of Cleves (c. 1440). This anonymous masterpiece from The Morgan Library & Museum in New York will be disbound for the occasion so that more than 100 pages can be viewed separately in Nijmegen.

In addition to pages from the Hours, a large portion of the widespread oeuvre of the Master of Catherine of Cleves will be brought together for the Nijmegen exhibition.

Daily life in the Middle Ages will be illustrated by means of medieval costumes and Catherine of Cleves' original household account books.

The 'Museum seeks Duchess' pageant will be held prior to the exhibition on 13 June. The winner will make appearances for the museum in the role of Catherine of Cleves during the course of the exhibition.

A reduced version of the exhibition will be on show at The Morgan Library & Museum in New York from 5 February to 2 May 2010.

Museum Het Valkhof expects at least 75,000 visitors to 'Catherine's world'.

The anonymous master: top-class illuminator

Lavish miniatures showing biblical scenes, saints, handicrafts, plants and animals were painted by an unknown master for Catherine of Cleves, duchess of Guelders (1417-1476).

Known as the 'Master of Catherine of Cleves', he is considered one of the best Northern-European illuminators of the 15th century. With an eye for detail he created an intimate world of devotion, demons and daily life in the late Middle Ages. Amongst other things, visitors will see the Holy Family at work and sinister devils in a hell's mouth.

The oeuvre: artworks brought together from across the world

In addition to 100 pages from the Hours, a large portion of the Master of Catherine of Cleves' widespread oeuvre will be brought together for the Nijmegen exhibition. Included are manuscripts from The Morgan Library & Museum (New York), The British Library (London), the Royal Library (The Hague), the Museum Meermanno (The Hague) and the Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte (Munster). This will be supplemented by important masterpieces from The British Museum (London), Fitzwilliam Museum (Cambridge) and the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin (Berlin).

Medieval attire and 'Museum seeks Duchess' pageant

Awaiting visitors at the start of the exhibition is a 'joyous entry' of Catherine of Cleves – a life-like parade of over 20 figures representing a cross-section of society. They are dressed in the costumes worn at the annual 'Limbourg Brothers Festival'. One of the most unique pieces is an authentic reconstruction of the costume in which Catherine of Cleves is portrayed in her Hours. On Saturday 13 June the best Catherine imitation will be chosen in a special Catherine of Cleves pageant in Museum Het Valkhof. She will appear as Catherine of Cleves in activities relating to the exhibition, the exhibition film and animation images.

Catherine's household account books: straw, meat and herbs

A spectacular discovery was recently made in the Guelders Archive: the household account books of Catherine of Cleves. They were used for the administration of her royal household in the Valkhof castle in Nijmegen and other residences of the Guelders dukes. Written centuries ago, the precisely recorded orders can now tell us about the amount of meat and fish that was eaten, how many bales of straw were needed for the horses and about Catherine's medicinal herbs.

Exhibition in De Stratemakerstoren

Concurrent with 'Catherine's world' there will be an exhibition in De Stratemakerstoren in Nijmegen concerning Catherine's travels in the duchy of Guelders. Her husband, Duke Arnold, and his travels to the Holy Land will also be addressed.

Collaboration

The exhibition costumes were created by the studios Het Woud der Verwachting, Stadelmaier, Sint Sartorius, Atelier Corinne Roes and the Nijmegen studio Cotardie in collaboration with the Limbourg Brothers Foundation. Thanks also to the Guelders Archive for their expertise and advice.

Museum Het Valkhof, Kelfkensbos 59, Nijmegen, Ph: 024-360 88 05. www.museumhetvalkhof.nl

Open from 10 October 2009 to 3 January 2010: Tuesday to Friday: 10 am – 5 pm

Saturday, Sunday and public holidays: 11 am – 5 pm. Closed on Mondays, 25 December and 1 January.

End press release

Note for the editors:

Press photos: download via www.museumhetvalkhof.nl / Pers / Beeldbank

Information / interviews: Marketing and Communication: Jannemarie van den Brand, j.vandenbrand@museumhetvalkhof.nl or Anne-Marie Gunnink, a.gunnink@museumhetvalkhof.nl
Ph: 024-360 88 05 Fax: 024-360 86 56

Further details on the exhibition in New York at www.themorgan.org.

Further details on the exhibition in the Stratemakerstoren at www.stratemakerstoren.nl (from September 2009).

Visitor information

Museum Het Valkhof

Kelfkensbos 59, 6511 TB Nijmegen

Postbus 1474, 6501 BL Nijmegen

Ph: 024 360 88 05

F: 024 360 86 56

E: mhv@museumhetvalkhof.nl

I: www.museumhetvalkhof.nl

Open from 10 October 2009 to 3 January 2010

Tuesday to Friday: 10 am – 5 pm

Saturday, Sunday and public holidays: 11 am – 5 pm

Closed on Mondays, 25 December and 1 January

Evening openings

Once again the museum will stay open on a number of evenings especially for the exhibition. Visitors can enjoy the works on display, the medieval buffet, music and interesting talks on life in the late Middle Ages. Reservation not required.

Dates will be announced on the website from September 2009.

Museum tickets and surcharge 10 October 2009 to 3 January 2010

During the exhibition there will be a surcharge on museum tickets for all visitors to Museum Het Valkhof.

Tariffs (including surcharge)

Adults (17+ years)	€ 11.00
Pensioner card	€ 9.00
Groups of 15 or more	€ 8.75
Children (4 to 16 years)	€ 7.50
Students	€ 7.50
Friends / Rembrandt	€ 4.00
Society	
Museum card holders	€ 4.00

School programmes

The museum offers educational group tours. On Mondays between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm and Tuesdays to Fridays between 9 am and 11 am (reservation required). Information / booking via the website.

Group visits

For adult groups of 15 or more a special introduction to the exhibition can be arranged on Tuesday to Saturday from 12.00 pm (reservation required). Exclusive evening receptions can also be arranged. Information / booking via the website.

For general group visits of 15 or more persons, please give at least two weeks notice to publiekszaken@museumhetvalkhof.nl. Tours by third parties are not permitted during the exhibition.

Audio tour

Audio tours (€ 3.50 Dutch, German, English) provide visitors with a lively and concise explanation of the exhibition.

Activities for children

The JuniorLab has been transformed into a scriptorium. Children can busy themselves with new experiments related to the Middle Ages and manuscripts. Open every Sunday and during holiday periods.

Museum shop and publications

Three publications on the exhibition are on sale in the museum shop:

- *The Hours of Catherine of Cleves. Devotion, Demons and Daily Life in the Fifteenth Century*, scholarly catalogue (English), Ludion, € 59.90.
- *The master's hand. The Hours of Catherine of Cleves*, art historical publication for general audience (Dutch, English and German), Ludion, € 24.90.

• *Op reis en aan tafel met Katherina van Kleef (1417-1476)*, cultural-historical publication for general audience

(Dutch), Ludion, € 24.90.

Numerous postcards, (art) books and original articles are also on sale at the exhibition.

The Museum cafe

Here visitors can enjoy light refreshments or a medieval lunch. See the menu on the website (from September 2009).

Directions

From June to November 2009 the A325 Nijmegen (between the 'Ovatonde' and the Waal bridge) will be converted into a city promenade. See www.nijmegen.nl. Visitors can also take the shuttle bus across the Waal bridge. See www.waalsprinter.nl

Public transport: current information at www.9292ov.nl

Train: Nijmegen CS, see www.ns.nl

Bus: Bus stop Museum Het Valkhof

By foot: approx. 15 minutes from central station

Car: Parking Kelfkensbos; current parking information at www.nijmegen.nl

Coach: Drop-off point - Museum Het Valkhof bus stop. Parking on the quay.

Accessibility

Due to the size of the exhibition, fewer rooms will be in use for the permanent collection. A limited number of wheelchairs are available. Entrance rules apply for motorised wheelchairs.

Please refer to the website.