

International Symposium

Collections of the Governors of the Habsburg Netherlands in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries

2026 11/22 sun.

Venue : Lecture Room 1, 1st Floor, Building C,
Kyoto City University of Arts

https://www.kcua.ac.jp/en/access_en

Organizer : Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B)
— "Research on Art Collections of Successive Governors of the Netherlands: Representations of Identity Composite State and Their Evolution" (Project Number: 23K25281; Principal Investigator: Michiko Fukaya)

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Despite their importance and the complexities surrounding the transfer and disposition of objects associated with a non-hereditary office, the art collections of the governors of the Habsburg Netherlands have rarely been examined from a diachronic perspective.Consequently, we still lack a comprehensive understanding of these collections as a whole,of the changing patterns and priorities of collecting, and of the ways in which collections were connected to the political and representational functions of the governorship. Focusing on the period during which the Spanish Habsburgs appointed and sent governors to the Netherlands, mposium seeks to explore how these governors, who governed the Netherlands as intermediaries between the Spanish monarchy and the local nobility and populace, employed art as a means of representation. By considering not only the collections of successive governors but also contemporary collections belonging to the Spanish Habsburgs and related families as points of comparison, the symposium will also shed new light on the distinctive cultural characteristics and historical significance of the Netherlands, Spain, and the Habsburg world during this period.



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Registration Link: https://forms.gle/cvF4mjBGCHjAJNeC6

QR code for Registration

Registration Deadline:15 Nov. 2026



Program

9:30 Registration

10:00 Opening Remarks

Session 1. The Early Governors: Margaret of Austria and Mary of Hungary

10:10 Opening Lecture. Dagmar Eichberger (Heidelberg University), Margaret of Austria's Treasures. Artistic Quality and Material Value

10:40 Nana Kaku (Setsunan University), Diplomatic Roles of Governor-General of the Habsburg Netherlands: Envoys and Letters of Margaret of Austria

11:05 Sumiko Imai (Kansai University), The Collection of Mary of Hungary and the Hunting Tapestries of Maximilian I

11:30 Discussion

11:45 Lunch

Session 2. Burgundian, Spanish, and Habsburg Contexts

13:00 Max Wiringa (KU Leuven), From Silent to Speaking Images. Philip of Burgundy's Multisensorial Collection and Early Habsburg Court Identity

13:25 Mari-Tere Álvarez (J. Paul Getty Museum), Beside the Governorship: Mencía de Mendoza, the Nassau Court at Breda, and Collecting in the Composite Monarchy

13:50 Hiroshige Okada (Osaka University), Visualizing the "Universal Monarchy": Art Patronage during the Formation of Habsburg Rule in Spain

14:10 Discussion

14:25 Coffee

Session 3. Governors under Philip II

14:50 Michiko Fukaya (Kyoto City University of Arts), Collecting and Succession as a Female Governor: Focusing on Margaret of Parma

15:15 Léon Rochard (University of Lille), Taste and Artistic Agency: Connections between Margaret of Parma's Collections and Artistic Commissions

15:40 Ivo Raband (Hamburg University), Royal, Princely, Archducal, Gubernatorial, Burgundian? The Collection of Archduke Ernest of Austria in Brussels (1594–1595)

16:05 Discussion

16:20 Break

Session 4. The Infante and Infanta as Governors of the Netherlands

16:30 Asuka Nakada (National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo), Albrecht and Isabella: Displaying Legitimacy through Art Collection

16:55 Nozomi Yamada (Hokkaido University of Education), Archduke Cardinal Ferdinand, Governor of the Netherlands, and the Hunting Tower as a Picture Gallery: The Image of the "Good Ruler" in the "King's Gallery"

17:20 Closing Lecture. Nils Büttner (State Academy of Arts Stuttgart), Rubens and the Collection of Albert and Isabella

17:50 Discussion

18:05 Closing Remarks

18:30 Reception





flyer design： Hosaka Ruri