



PAINTINGS

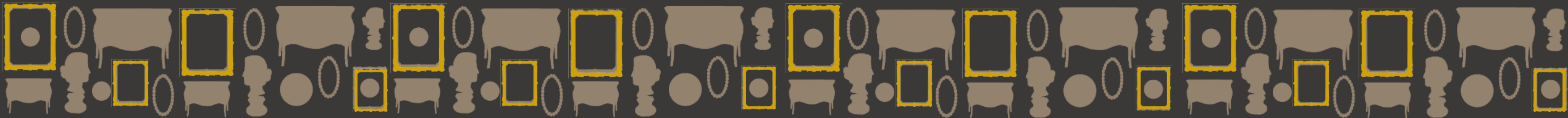


Throughout history, many experienced collectors have chosen to acquire paintings due to their long-lasting and non-fading qualities.

Ranging across different schools and different styles of paintings, various brushstrokes and rich colours of paintings make them very enticing objects for art institutions to collect. However, it may be solely the name of the artist, or the price of the painting that entices an institution to collect it. Many museums and galleries only display a very small proportion of the paintings they hold in their collections. **Do museums amass paintings away for the reason of care and protection, or simply hoarding and for the sheer status of their collection.**

Why do we like to go and see the paintings in museum collections? Perhaps it may be the momentary touch of the painting, a style we like, an artist that we admire, or a sense of belonging the picture brings to us.

Not all of us are lucky enough to have our own collection of oil paintings, but we may instead collect posters or prints of original works. Does this affect our enjoyment of the painting?



FAMILY GROUP IN AN INTERIOR

1658–1660 Attributed to Quiringh Gerritsz. van Brekelenkam
Digital image courtesy of Getty's Open Content Program



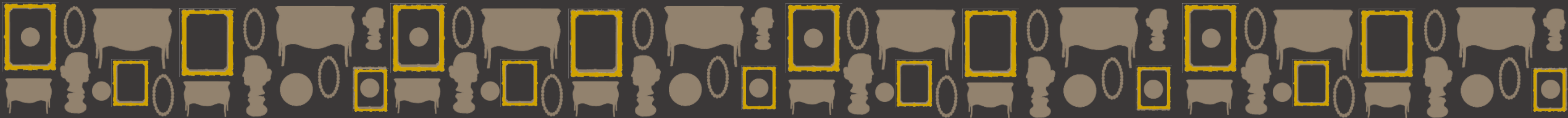
This is an interior painting of a family just after dinner. Interestingly, you can find a lot of collectibles in this family room. Van Brekelenkam appears to have combined a family portrait and a genre scene with a moralising message about wealth and status as art collectors.

He emphasised the moral message by placing a large, framed landscape in the background above the mantel. As the family displays domestic virtues, the painting within the painting shows a couple gazing at a ship at sea under a dark sky illuminated by a shaft of light.

Sold to J. Paul Getty 1951

Donated to J. Paul Getty
Museum 1970

It is interesting here to consider that a family held an oil painting within their personal collection. What might this say about the wealth and status of this family?





Sunrise (Marine)
1872 or 1873
Claude Monet
Sold to the J.Paul Getty Museum 1998

Do you place greater value on the author, the subject matter, or the message when collecting the paintings or their reproductions?

What would be the equivalent of collecting painting in the domestic sphere? Do you have any posters or prints displayed in your home?



Still Life with Apples
1893-1894
Paul Cézanne
Sold to the J.Paul Getty Museum 1996

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