

Looking East

RUBENS'S ENCOUNTER WITH ASIA

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**A RICH EXPLORATION OF ONE OF RUBENS'S MOST INTRIGUING DRAWINGS
AVAILABLE IN PRINT AND AS AN ENHANCED DIGITAL BOOK
THROUGH APPLE'S iBOOKSTORE**

LOS ANGELES—Available as an enhanced digital book on the Apple iBookstore as well as in print, *Looking East: Rubens's Encounter with Asia* (Getty Publications, \$20.00 paperback / \$9.99 digital book) explores Peter Paul Rubens's fascinating depiction of a man wearing Korean costume. Made around 1617, Rubens's *Man in Korean Costume* has intrigued scholars since its creation. Despite the drawing's renown, however, the reasons why it was made and whether it actually depicts a specific Asian person remain a mystery. The dramatic story that develops involves a shipwreck, an unusual hat, the earliest trade between Europe and Asia, the trafficking of Asian slaves, and the role of Jesuit missionaries in Asia.

The book's editor, Stephanie Schrader, traces the interpretations and meanings ascribed to this drawing over the centuries. Could Rubens actually have encountered a particular Korean man who sailed to Europe, or did he instead draw a model wearing Asian clothing or simply hear about such a person? What did Europeans really know about Korea during that period, and what might the Jesuits have had to do with the production of this drawing? All of these questions are explored by the enhanced digital book and print version's contributors, who look at the drawing from various points of view.

About the Editor

Stephanie Schrader is associate curator in the Department of Drawings at the J. Paul Getty Museum. Her recent publications include "Naturalism Under the Microscope: A Technical Study of Maria Sibylla Merian's Metamorphosis of the Insects of Surinam" (*Getty Research Journal*, 2012) and contributions to the Metropolitan Museum of Art's exhibition catalogue *Man, Myth, and Sensual Pleasures: Jan Gossart's Renaissance* (2010).

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J. Paul Getty Museum

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