Travel with The Met  
Holland & Belgium by Barge: Amsterdam to Bruges Aboard *Magnifique II* with Elizabeth Cleland, Associate Curator, Department of European Sculpture & Decorative Arts  
April 15–23, 2018
Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

Please join me next April on an enchanting cruise through the Netherlands and Belgium. From the intriguing Dutch capital to Belgium’s jewel-like town of Bruges, experience the outstanding art, architecture, and gastronomy of the region as we step ashore in picturesque cities and revel in springtime in the Low Countries.

As a specialist in European tapestry, I am delighted to lead this voyage through some of the historic Flemish towns where textile production flourished from the 15th century onwards. We shall walk in the footsteps of the great tapestry designers and weavers, and witness the prosperity enjoyed during that golden age in Flanders’ splendid Renaissance architecture.

We begin in Amsterdam to admire the treasures of the Rijksmuseum before embarking the intimate Magnifique II. In Utrecht, tour the Dom Cathedral, then continue to Schoonhoven to observe a master silversmith in his workshop. Step ashore in Rotterdam to view groundbreaking buildings designed by Rem Koolhaas and others, and in Delft, visit a factory where the city’s iconic blue-and-white porcelain is still painted by hand. Call at Antwerp to see Rubens’ powerful Descent from the Cross, and enjoy a tasting of Belgian beers in Dendermonde before continuing to Ghent and the splendid Cathedral of St. Bavo. On a delightful day in Bruges, discover a prized Michelangelo sculpture and enjoy some leisure time before disembarking.

Magnifique II, our exclusively chartered luxury barge, accommodates just 35 guests, the perfect size for creating camaraderie among fellow passengers.

I look forward to welcoming you on this very special cultural cruise.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Cleland
Associate Curator, Department of European Sculpture & Decorative Arts
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

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**Trip Highlights**

- Enjoy springtime in the Low Countries aboard a luxury barge, with bicycles for optional use ashore

- Marvel at masterpieces by Rubens and Michelangelo in historic cathedrals in Antwerp and Bruges

- Discover Kinderdijk, a UNESCO-listed series of iconic windmills

- Explore the futuristic architecture of Rotterdam

- Observe a master silversmith at work in Schoonhoven

- Experience a sublime chamber music concert performed by a local quartet

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**Traveling with You**

Elizabeth Cleland

Elizabeth Cleland, Associate Curator, has worked at The Met since 2004 and is responsible for post-medieval European tapestries and northern European glass and enamels. She was lead curator of the exhibition *Grand Design: Pieter Coecke van Aelst and Renaissance Tapestry* (2014), and is curating a major loan exhibition, scheduled for 2020, celebrating Art at the Tudor Courts. She has published widely on 15th-, 16th-, and 17th-century tapestries; and co-edited with Thomas P. Campbell *Tapestry in the Baroque: New Aspects of Production and Patronage*. Elizabeth has contributed to exhibition catalogues and to permanent collections’ catalogues of British, American, and Canadian museums. She studied at the Courtauld Institute of Art and received her MA and PhD as a British Academy scholar.
Photos clockwise from top right: regional map; the De Rotterdam by Rem Koolhaus, Rotterdam; Cheese Market, Gouda; Ghent, Plantin-Moretus House, photo courtesy VisitFlanders © Filip Dujardin; Delftware (tin-glazed earthenware). Dutch. 1640-60. Ceramics-Pottery. Fletcher Fund, 1927. (27.199.170). Front cover: Windmills of Kinderdijk photo, courtesy of Netherlands Board of Tourism. Back cover: Interior of the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, photo courtesy of Netherlands Board of Tourism (top). The Hague (bottom)
Holland & Belgium by Barge: Amsterdam to Bruges Aboard Magnifique II April 15–23, 2018

**U.S. Departure**
Sunday, April 15
Depart on an overnight flight to Amsterdam.

**Amsterdam, the Netherlands**
Monday, April 16
Arrive in Amsterdam for a brief walking tour. Following a traditional Indonesian rijstaffel lunch, visit the Rijksmuseum, the State Treasury of Dutch paintings, before embarking Magnifique II. Enjoy a welcome dinner on board as we begin our cruise along the beautiful and winding Vecht River. L, D

**Utrecht, the Netherlands**
Tuesday, April 17
From the port of Vianen, explore charming Utrecht, including the Dom Cathedral and the Centraal Museum. Then visit the Museum Catharijneconvent and its collection of medieval manuscripts. Continue to the “silver city” of Schoonhoven on the Lek River, where we will meet a master silversmith. In the afternoon discover the village of Kinderdijk, famous for its impressive row of 19 large windmills—all of which have a UNESCO listing. Alternatively, you may wish to sample local cheeses and sweet stroopwafels in the town of Gouda. B, L, D

**Rotterdam, the Netherlands**
Wednesday, April 18
This morning visit Rotterdam, largely rebuilt after World War II and famous for its cutting-edge architecture. See buildings designed by Renzo Piano, Piet Blom, and Rem Koolhaas. Then explore Delft, birthplace of Vermeer, with its tree-lined canals and gabled homes. Tour a delftware factory where production of traditional hand-painted porcelain continues even today. Alternatively, admire masterpieces at The Hague’s Mauritshuis Museum, a 17th-century mansion containing a superb collection of Dutch Masters. B, L, D

**Antwerp, Belgium**
Thursday, April 19
Step ashore in Antwerp to visit the 17th-century Rubens House and the cathedral where the painter’s famous Descent from the Cross is on display. After lunch, you may wish to see the Plantin-Moretus House, the former residence and workshop of a leading family of printers with a lovely Renaissance garden. Or you may choose to tour the Mayer van den Bergh Museum and its fine collection of Gothic and Renaissance art, including works by Brueghel. B, L, D

**Dendermonde/Ghent, Belgium**
Friday, April 20
In Dendermonde, admire the former Cloth Hall on Market Square and sample beers produced by the St. Peter and Paul Abbey. As an alternative, visit the charming medieval beguinage (a home for lay religious women). Enjoy a relaxing afternoon as we cruise to Ghent. This evening attend a special onboard concert of chamber music performed by one of Europe’s most exciting quartets. B, L, D

**Ghent**
Saturday, April 21
Spend the day in Ghent, while Magnifique II remains docked near the city center. See the splendid Cathedral of St. Bavo on a guided tour. In the afternoon explore the medieval Gravensteen Castle or learn about the region’s history of textile production at a former cotton-spinning mill. B, L, D

**Bruges, Belgium**
Sunday, April 22
Today we explore Bruges, a medieval gem laced with canals and gardens, with a behind-the-scenes look at some of its hidden treasures. We will also visit the Cathedral of Our Lady with its celebrated Madonna & Child by Michelangelo and view the collections at the Hans Memling Museum, housed in the Hospice of St. John. An optional afternoon visit to the Groeninge Museum is offered, or enjoy free time in this enchanting town. Gather for a festive farewell dinner this evening. B, L, D

**Bruges/U.S. Return**
Monday, April 23
Disembark and transfer to the Brussels Airport for return flights home.

The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

**More Travels with The Met**

- **The Great Châteaux & Vineyards of Bordeaux Aboard AmaDolce**
  - October 27–November 10, 2017
- **Siam to Singapore Aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express**
  - January 20–31, 2018
- **Cuba by Sea Aboard Variety Voyager**
  - January 25–February 2, 2018
- **Arts of the Venetian Carnevale**
  - January 30–February 5, 2018

For details please go to metmuseum.org/travel
**Cruise Rates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cabins</th>
<th>Decks</th>
<th>Double Rates</th>
<th>Single Rates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 to 12, 14 to 19</td>
<td>Lower Deck</td>
<td>$7,999</td>
<td>$12,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin beds with portholes</td>
<td>Top Deck</td>
<td>$9,999</td>
<td>$19,999</td>
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Suites, twin beds, small sitting area, large windows

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**Rates Include**

- Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard *Magnifique II*

- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner). Bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals, wine/beer to complement dinners.

- Pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights.

- Enrichment program of lectures and special events.

- Escorted sightseeing by private motor coach and entrance fees for included visits. Optional bike tours – bicycles available on board.

- Taxes, service, and porterage charges; customary shipboard gratuities; gratuities to local guides and drivers.

**Not included in rates**

- International airfare, passport fees; alcoholic beverages other than wine/beer at dinners; personal items and expenses; airport transfers for those not on suggested flights; baggage in excess of one suitcase; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

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**Magnifique II**

Launched in the spring of 2016, this luxury barge offers 18 comfortable cabins equipped with Wi-Fi, flat-screen satellite TVs, and individually controlled air conditioning. Her upper deck features a salon, restaurant, bar, and lounge. Her teak sun deck is partially covered and ideal for watching the passing scenery.

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**Holland & Belgium by Barge: April 15–23, 2018**

**Reservation Form**

To secure your reservation, please call Academic Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of $1,000 per person (of which $350 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to Academic Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

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**Accommodations**

Cabin preference  [ ] One bed  [ ] Two beds  [ ] Single

I wish to share a cabin with ________________________________

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**Form of Payment**

[ ] Enclosed is my check (payable to Academic Arrangements Abroad)  [ ] Debit card  [ ] Credit card

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Name on debit/credit card ________________________________

Debit/credit card number ________________________________

3- or 4-digit security code ________________________________

Expiration date ________________________________

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Each participant must sign below. I/we have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in forthcoming program documents. I/we agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.

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Signature (required) ________________________________ Date ________________________________

Signature (required) ________________________________ Date ________________________________

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For additional information, please call 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638)
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