

A black and white line drawing of a woman's head and shoulders. She has dark hair styled in a bun with bangs, wears a dark high-collared dress with a brooch, and has large earrings. The drawing is framed by a simple black border.

## Invitation to the Schöne lecture **Giving Voice to the Women of the Rijksmuseum**

by **Jenny Reynaerts and Rachel Esner**

20 November 2023, 19:00 c.t.

In 2021 the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, under the guidance of Jenny Reynaerts, embarked on the project *Women of the Rijksmuseum*, which aims to create a better balance in the museum's collection and presentation, in particular by addressing gendered perspectives and female narratives. To achieve this much needed revision, the five-year project focuses on three pillars of enquiry: makers; stories; and collection-builders. The latter is also part of the larger, national platform *The Other Half: Women in the Dutch Art World, 1780-1980*, organized together with other partners in the field. Its objective is to collect and share information on the women in the Dutch museum world who were not makers. Many of these female donors, critics, museum-workers, dealers, and writers have been written out of art history, where the achievements of their male counterparts have been given priority. Rachel Esner's research focuses on two of these curators, both of whom began their careers in the Rijksmuseum, and traces their professional paths and accomplishments in the context of the early 20th century. Both speakers will address the methodological aspects of their projects, as looking into women's agency in historical research proves to be quite a challenge.

**Dr. Jenny Reynaerts** is a Senior Curator of paintings at the Rijksmuseum and chair of the project team *Women of the Rijksmuseum*. She has published widely on 19<sup>th</sup>-century art, in particular Dutch paintings. Within the field of women's stories, she focuses on the position and lives of painters' models. She is currently finishing a biography of two models of the artist George Hendrik Breitner.

**Dr. Rachel Esner** is Associate Professor of art history at the University of Amsterdam. Her research focuses on museums, exhibition history, and curatorial practices. Together with Bram Donders and Sandra Kisters, she was recently awarded a Dutch Research Council Museum Grant to carry out research into the female donors to the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen. Together with - among others - Jenny Reynaerts, she initiated the platform *The Other Half*, for which she is currently studying women curators of the Rijksmuseum.

Venue: Architekturgebäude, Hörsaal A 053

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Image credit: Julie de Graag, *Portret van een vrouw, van voren*, 1887-1924, Amsterdam, Rijksmuseum  
Design: Susanne Meyer-Abich

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