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Historical recipes for preparatory layers for oil paintings in manuals, manuscripts and handbooks in North West Europe, 1550-1900: analysis and reconstructions

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Biography of the author

Maartje Stols (1972) received her MA in Art History from the University of Leiden in 1995. She wrote her MA thesis on the subject of historical recipes for final varnishes for oil painting in the Netherlands, 1600-1900. An article based on this thesis was published as Stols-Witlox (2001).

In 2000, Maartje obtained her diploma as a conservator of paintings and painted objects at the Limburg Conservation Institute (SRAL) in Maastricht. As part of her training, Maartje worked as paintings conservator in the Kröller-Müller Museum (Otterlo), the Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam) and the Mauritshuis Museum (The Hague). Maartje's thesis investigated the influence of earlier conservation treatments on the current state of Daniel Seghers' and Thomas Williboirts Bosschaert's *Flower garland with Virgin and Child*. Maartje continued her education as a paintings conservator at the Hamilton Kerr Institute (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom) with an advanced internship focusing on the structural conservation of panel paintings. Subsequently Maartje worked as a paintings conservator at the Mauritshuis Museum and in several private conservation studios.

In 2002, Maartje joined the HART Project team as research associate to project leader Dr. Leslie Carlyle. The HART Project, HART standing for Historically Accurate Reconstruction Techniques, focused on the execution of reconstructions of artists' paints with materials that resemble the material of the artist as closely as possible. This project was part of the De Mayerne Program, a multi-disciplinary research program sponsored by NWO, focused on obtaining more insight into paint composition and degradation on a microscopic level. Within the HART Project, Maartje was responsible for the development of a recipe database, designed both as a recipe library and as a text analysis tool to support the reconstructions, and Maartje led recipe collecting and entering. She also played a role in sourcing suitable ingredients for reconstructions and was involved in the execution of these reconstructions.

Since 2007, Maartje is employed as lecturer paintings conservation by the University of Amsterdam, and coordinates of the MA program for the painting speciality. Maartje combines this with her PhD research, and since 2013 with her role as core-team member of the PAinT Project.

The PAinT project, a project inside the NWO sponsored Science4Arts research program, investigates the influence of conservation treatments and environmental factors on the ageing and degradation of oil paints, with a focus on pigment-binder interactions. Its team, consisting of scientists, conservation scientists and conservators, employs a multi-disciplinary approach to this subject, in which Maartje focuses on reconstructions of historic conservation methods.

Maartje has published on artists techniques, on recipes for preparatory layers, on historical recipes for the conservation and restoration of paintings, and on reconstructions of such recipes.

Maartje is married and has three children.