

Vermeer's Delft as virtual reality

Kaldenbach

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Walking though The View of Delft - on Internet

<http://www.johannesvermeer.org>

<http://www.xs4all.nl/~kalden>

As of Tuesday, 26 June 2001 the web site of Dutch art historian Kees Kaldenbach will feature a world premiere - an Internet QuickTime film in which one can walk through historical artists' drawings of the area depicted in Johannes Vermeer's 'View of Delft'. This movie is the result of several years of multi-disciplinary co-operation and collaboration between the author and the Delft Polytechnic University.

What sets it apart from many 3-dimension Virtual Reality films is that the original drawings are still intact. At the Delft municipal archives a series of scans were made from these drawings. Aided by modern image software they were then made 3-dimensional, and a sequence created leading from one spatial drawing into the next.

The resulting QuickTime film is unique, allowing the viewer to visit historical 17th century Delft by entering contemporary drawings. We begin alongside the southern defense walls, walking west into a 1695 drawing of the Rotterdam Gate by Josua De Grave. As you enter its drawbridge note the detail in the work by Van Kessel showing the front of this gate. Vermeer painted this massive defense gate from the south side circa 1661.

This QuickTime movie then takes you through this gate and into Delft. The Armamentarium, (weapon warehouse) is transformed into 3D virtual reality, based on a historic engraving from 1667. Finally you cross the water, turn right and approach the town facades of the great gates depicted by De Grave. You will see the Rotterdam gate to the left, the Schiedam gate in the middle and to the right the smaller Kethel gate. This latter gate was the one used by people and carriages on their way towards the harbour.

Note: It may be necessary to first download a QuickTime player from the Internet, but this should pose no problem.

About the author

Drs. Kees Kaldenbach is a Dutch art historian based in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Since 1975 he has focused on the 'View of Delft' as his main topic of art historical research. He has published widely, most recently in the catalogue of the "Vermeer and the Delft School" exhibition in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City and the National Gallery of Art, London. Much more information may be found on his web sites:

<http://www.johannesvermeer.org>

<http://www.xs4all.nl/~kalden>

Live presentation and discussion of this project by all collaborators:

Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2001,

Time: 13.00 - 14.00 hrs

Site: Industrial Design Building, Jaffalaan 9, Delft room 33.20, the ID StudioLab.

Reference:

ANN: Vermeer's Delft as virtual reality. In: Arthist.net, Jun 27, 2001 (accessed Jul 13, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/24515>>.