



The Springfield Museums Present:

Painting & Barging in Holland with Robert Masla

Seeing the Light and Embracing Color
April 21- 30, 2022



Experience plein air painting and the art of the Flemish and Dutch masters on a small group barging tour through Holland with Robert Masla. Robert will lead art discussions and plein air painting sessions throughout the tour capturing the picturesque canals and landscapes with tulips in full bloom! We'll tour museums, local sites and enchanting villages and country sides dotted with windmills for inspiration. The ports on the trip include Amsterdam, Haarlem, Delft, Leiden, Rotterdam and Gouda, with a private tour and master class at the Royal Talen's headquarters (manufacturers of Rembrandt, Cobra and Van Gogh paints); and a tour of the Keukenhof Gardens, considered one of the most beautiful spring gardens in the world.

Our tour begins in Amsterdam for one night in a centrally located, boutique hotel within walking distance to many sights. Enjoy free time to explore the city and visit museums such as the Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh or the Anne Frank House. We'll spend the remainder of the tour on a 24-passenger, well-appointed barge *The Fiep*. From the comfort and convenience of the barge, we will travel the canals of Holland departing from the mooring in Amsterdam and paint in picturesque locations such as Haarlem, the Keukenhof Garden area, Rotterdam, Delft, Leiden and Gouda, taking advantage of the spectacular display of tulips in bloom for painting inspiration. We return to Amsterdam for a guided tour of the second largest collection of Van Gogh's paintings at the Kroller Muller Museum. At the Royal Talen's Headquarters, our private tour includes a master class and the opportunity to purchase art materials at a discount.

Nearly every day will consist of a sketchbook drawing and painting demonstration reinforced with one-on-one instruction with Robert. Throughout the tour, Robert will provide engaging lectures, critiques and discussions. Painters are responsible for their own supplies and a recommended packing list will be provided. A chartered coach will take us to and from the barge to painting locations when necessary.

Non-painters are welcome and will join the group on all planned tours – museums, gardens, city tours, etc. During painting sessions, non-painters will enjoy excursions in every city with plenty of options for sightseeing, walking tours, museum exploration and shopping at local markets.

Please note: In order to participate in any of the Springfield Museums travel programs, all travelers must provide proof of vaccination and adhere to a mask protocol where mandated throughout the tour.

April 21, Thursday - Departure from the USA

April 22, Friday - Amsterdam

Arrival at Schiphol Airport, coach to de Zaanse Schans (a historical recreation of a village complete with working windmills). After a visit to a klompen maker (wooden shoes), we enjoy a traditional Dutch pancake lunch before heading to our hotel in Amsterdam. Welcome dinner is a traditional Indonesian rijsttafel in a nearby restaurant. (L, D)

April 23, Saturday- Amsterdam

This day is free to explore the different museums Amsterdam has to offer; Rijksmuseum, Van Gogh Museum, the Rembrandt House, the Hermitage Museum or the Anne Frank House. Lunch is on your own. In the afternoon, we meet at our hotel and coach to the barge, your home for the next seven nights. The captain and crew will provide an orientation to the barge before checking into our cabins. Welcome dinner on the barge. (B, D)

April 24, Sunday - Haarlem

We barge to the beautiful town of Haarlem. After lunch on the barge, weather permitting, we paint all afternoon in Haarlem. The St Bavo Church dominates the main square, and the town hall (a former hunting lodge from the 14th century) and meat market make for great painting subjects. *Non painters can explore the Frans Hals Museum, the cathedral and town square. All will explore the Frans Hals Museum if it's raining.* (B, L, D)

April 25, Monday - Leiden

This morning we coach to the Keukenhof Gardens where you will be overwhelmed by a rainbow of colors with acres of flower beds and pavilions; in addition, you can order tulips to be shipped to you at planting time. Be sure you have a camera at hand. After lunch on your own, we paint in the surrounding tulip fields. *Non painters will enjoy more time in the Gardens.* Coach to Leiden, birthplace of Rembrandt, where we meet our floating hotel. (B, D)

April 26, Tuesday - Delft

After breakfast, we walk to Leiden's old town gate, de Zijlpoort, built in 1667, to pain or take in the sights of the town. Bus to Delft, home of another famous Dutch painter, Vermeer. Lunch on your own in one of the many restaurants on the square. The town square with its ornate town hall, church and old buildings, makes for an ideal setting for a painting session. *Non painters can visit the local churches and museums.* (B, D)

April 27, Wednesday - Gouda

This morning we barge to Rotterdam, and visit the Pilgrims Church where the pilgrims said their last prayers before sailing for the USA. The tranquil canal in front of the church has flat bottom sailboats converted to house boats—nothing could be more Dutch—and waiting to be painted. Afterwards we bus to Gouda where our barge is moored. (B, L, D)

April 28, Thursday - Amsterdam

Make sure you visit a cheese shop in Gouda, sample first, and then bring some home. We'll find a quiet place to paint as today is market day in Gouda with lots of activity all around you. The town hall on the main square is a spectacular site as is St John's church, dedicated to John the Baptist, and built in the 15th century. In the afternoon, while we barge to Amsterdam, we have lunch onboard. Arrive in Amsterdam late afternoon. Dinner is on board the barge. (B, L, D)

April 29, Friday - Amsterdam

After breakfast, bus to the Kroller Mueller Museum in the eastern part of the country for a guided tour. This museum holds a large, private collection of Van Gogh paintings and is located in a beautiful dense forest setting. Explore the sculpture garden before leaving for Apeldoorn, home of Royal Talens. This remarkable place, 120 years old, caters to painters from all over the world. We will start with lunch followed by a master class and explanation of how artist materials and pigments are crafted there. Mid-afternoon, we return to the Fiep for our last night in Amsterdam and a farewell dinner on the barge. (B, L, D)

April 30, Saturday - Departure

Morning group transfer from the barge to Schiphol airport between 7-8 am. Plan your departure flight for no earlier than 10:30 am.

There will be time for after dinner walks to explore, or relax in the living room area of the barge. In addition to daily plein air painting instruction, your instructor will schedule critiques, walking and photo sessions throughout the tour. Please note that this itinerary is subject to change. We ask participants to remain flexible, as weather may dictate the activities for each day. Dinners on the barge will take place between 6-7 pm. Water, coffee and tea along with light snacks will be offered all day long free of charge. There is a self-serve bar on the barge where you can select wine or beer on the honor system. At the end of the tour, your tab will be collected. We'll see you in Holland, or as the Dutch say, *tot ziens*.

Double occupancy: Painters: \$3900. Non-painting partners welcome: \$3650. Travelers requesting a single room, please add \$1,200. (Single rooms have been filled). Air travel is not included, but assistance in booking air travel is available via a travel agent.

What's included:

- Group transfer from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport to hotel
- Dutch pancake lunch on day of arrival
- Entrance to scheduled museums **
- Welcome rijsttafel (Dutch –Indonesian) dinner in Amsterdam
- (1) night in a hotel in Amsterdam near the museums
- Seven (7) nights on the barge
- Daily breakfast and dinners on barge
- All but three (3) lunches
- All daily transfers to scheduled sites
- Painting sessions with Robert Masla in selected locations
- Tour and master class at the Royal Talen's headquarters
- All scheduled entrance fees
- English-speaking guide and Springfield Museums staff member to accompany tour
- Group transfer from barge to Amsterdam airport



The barge has 12 cabins, each with 2 beds and a private bathroom. There is a lounge, dining area and bar. There are two decks (fore and aft) from which one can relax, sketch, paint and watch the ever-changing scenery. The meals are prepared onboard and come from the best kitchen one can hope for: gourmet meals (breakfast and dinner daily and most lunches) served by a well-trained English-speaking staff. The boat *never* travels at night. The unique travel through the canals, locks and bridges adds to the charming experience.

Cancellation Policy: If cancellation notice is received more than 90 days before departure, all monies will be refunded less a \$500 per person cancellation fee. If cancellation notice is received 90 to 30 days before departure, all monies will be refunded less a \$750 per person cancellation fee. If cancellation notice is received less than 30 days before departure, all monies will be refunded less a \$1250 per person cancellation fee.

Tour participants will be asked to fill out a health form prior to departure and are encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan, ***but only after the tour has been declared operational and deposits have been processed.*** Information on travel insurance will be included in your enrollment.

For more information on artist Robert Masla, please visit www.MaslaFineArt.com

For more information or to register, please call 413-263-6800 ext. 382 or

jfontaine@springfieldmuseums.org

Springfield Museums Travel Booking Form – Holland 2022

Traveler 1: _____ **Name as it appears on your passport**

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____ Tel: (____) _____ Alt Tel: (____) _____

Special Dietary Needs/Conditions: _____

Emergency contact person: _____ Relationship: _____

Tel: (____) _____ Alt Tel: (____) _____ Painter : _____ Yes _____ No

Traveler 2: _____ **Name as it appears on your passport**

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____ Tel: (____) _____ Alt Tel: (____) _____ Special

Dietary Needs/Conditions: _____

Emergency contact person: _____ Relationship: _____

Tel: (____) _____ Alt Tel: (____) _____ Painter: _____ Yes _____ No

Passport: ____ **Passport copy/copies enclosed.** ____ **Will send passport copy/copies separately.**

(Passports must be valid 6 months after your return date.)

Accommodations on the barge: All rooms have two twin beds and there is no smoking on the barge.

Hotel (please check one:) _____ one bedded room or _____ twin bedded room. All rooms are non-smoking.

____ Single Traveler ____ Sharing a room with : _____

Payment schedule: \$1500 deposit due at time of booking to hold your place* (see terms & conditions).

• **December 15, 2021** – 50% of the balance is due. Credit card number on file will be used unless specified.

Payment Information:

____ I have enclosed a check or money order for the total fee of : \$ _____

____ I authorize you to charge my credit card for the total fee of : \$ _____

____ MasterCard ____ Visa ____ DiscoverCard ____ American Express

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____ CV # _____

Cardholder Name _____

Cardholder Signature _____

***Terms & Conditions:** I/we, understand and accept that the information above is accurate. Once the tour has been declared operational, participants will have the opportunity to confirm their participation or withdraw from the tour and receive a full refund. Once confirmation of participation has been confirmed, the deposit is nonrefundable.

Signature on booking form indicates participant's acceptance of the above terms and conditions and understanding of the refund policy.

Signature (Traveler 1) _____ Date _____

Signature (Traveler 2) _____ Date _____

Mail to: Museum School Travel, 21 Edwards Street, Springfield, MA 01103

Questions: Jeanne Fontaine – 413-263-6800 ext. 382 or E-mail: jfontaine@springfieldmuseums.org

Canal View in Amsterdam



Cheese shop in Gouda



Barging into Leiden



Tulips fields and Keukenhof Garden

