



## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

### Ada de Wit

Ada de Wit joined the Cleveland Museum of Art in August 2023 as Ellen S. and Bruce V. Mavec Curator of Decorative Arts. She is responsible for American and European decorative arts and design, dating from 1500 to the present.

Before joining the CMA, De Wit served as curator of works of art and sculpture at the Wallace Collection, London, a national museum renowned for its 18th-century French art. At the Wallace Collection, she developed a curatorial strategy for the less studied part of the collection, consisting of *Kunstkammer* objects and African and Asian works of art. This resulted in major research projects on Asante gold and Chinese gold from the Qianlong period. Previous to her employment at the Wallace Collection, De Wit worked for the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, where she researched the museum's silver and glass collections.

De Wit earned a doctorate from Radboud University in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Her dissertation, “Grinling Gibbons and His Contemporaries (1650–1700): The Golden Age of Woodcarving in the Netherlands and Britain”, was published as a lavishly illustrated volume by Brepols (2022). She received two Master of Arts degrees, one in art history and one in French and British decorative arts and historic interiors, after having studied in Poland, the Netherlands, and England. De Wit attended various courses including a short silversmithing course and the Attingham Summer School, which explores English country houses and their collections.

1607 NAUTILUS CUP, Netherlands, Holland, Delft  
Cornelis Jansz van der Burch

Nautilus shells were brought to the Netherlands from Indonesia. Skilled Dutch silversmiths mounted them creating luxurious vessels that were sought after by wealthy collectors. Early Dutch nautilus cups are mainly associated with the city of Delft. Only a few examples made in Delft are known from the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. They feature the dramatic motif of a sea monster's head.

FLOWER PYRAMID c. 1690, Part of a set, Netherlands, Holland, Delft  
Adrianus Kocx

Allegorical figures representing Faith, Hope and Love decorate the base of this pyramid, on which 6 tiers with spouts where flowers can be placed. Flower pyramids are among the most complex and luxurious types of ceramics produced in Delft in the late 1600s. This example was made in the Greek A Factory, owned by Adrianus Kocx. During his tenure, the factory became the most prestigious of Delft potteries and received commissions from Queen Mary II, who ruled over England, Scotland and Ireland together with her husband, William III. She contributed to the international spread of the fashion for Delft ceramics.