

	<p>Object: Tavern Scene</p> <p>Museum: Kunsthalle Bremen Am Wall 207 28195 Bremen (04 21) 3 29 08-0 info@kunsthalle-bremen.de</p> <p>Collection: Alte Meister, Gemälde und Skulpturen</p> <p>Inventory number: 737-1957/4</p>
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Description

Joos van Craesbeeck seems to have come to painting by chance. Trained as a baker, he worked at the Castle of Antwerp from 1633, where he met the genre painter Adriaen Brouwer. The latter, imprisoned there for his unpaid debts, taught the young artisan to paint. Soon thereafter, Craesbeeck was listed with the Guild of Saint Luke in Antwerp as a schilder en bakker, “painter and baker,” making a name for himself as a painter of merry, rowdy gatherings. Unlike his teacher, however, he did not place these in a rustic, bawdy context, but in presumably urban, elegant surroundings. Tavern Scene, which was painted in Brussels, shows four well-dressed cavaliers being fleeced and deceived by the women present in the room: Either their money is being taken away from them or they are being cheated at a game of cards with the aid of a mirror. We may assume that the tavern is actually a brothel because of the dog at the front right eating oysters, considered to be an aphrodisiac at the time, from a silver platter. The painting is also a depiction of the five senses: The mirror, singing, smoke, wine, and the thieving hands stand for sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch.

Basic data

Material/Technique:	Oil on wood
Measurements:	49.5 x 64.5 cm

Events

Painted	When	1645-1650
	Who	Joos van Craesbeeck (1605-1661)
	Where	

Keywords

- Brothel
- Card game
- Inn
- Mirror
- Painting