

# Renée Smithuis donates her Mons painters Museum Singer



Renée Smithuis "That somewhat rough, I like so much of the Bergen School. Photo Erna Faust

Hans Visser Aug. 25th. 2015

It has long been thought about and talked about a lot. Yet Renée had Smithuis it as difficult as the transport vehicle with its art collection Street drove off. The more than eighty paintings from the Bergen School and then subsequent Dutch expressionists headed to the Museum Laren Singer: as donation. The museum brings the collection from September 20 to exhibition Bergen School, the first Dutch expressionists.

Forty years has collected Castricum Renée Smithuis, with love and policy. Why is she doing now away? „, Then quite unexpectedly my

sister died, I knew I that I can overcome anything. Than  
So should my paintings which are 'regulated'. "

## **Story**

„Upon sale, the collection would fall apart, how can you still  
here is so carefully crafted story of the Bergen School  
to tell?"

„Frankly, I always gathered in the hope that they eventually in  
Bergen Museum Kranenburgh would hang. Once that founded  
especially to show the Bergen School, but now it strikes  
other way around. That's why I started talking to Singer, I knew  
good. This museum will now next to the Impressionists  
show expressionists. "

The Bergen School began in 1914. A number of painters was  
Amsterdam pulled North Holland Mountains. „Not in the  
First place for nature, though they have greatly painted  
dunes and polders. I think the atmosphere liked them, they were there  
freedom and peace and Amsterdam was still close. "

Pacemakers were Piet van Wijngaerdt and the French painter Henri Le  
Fauconnier, who after the revolutionary work of Van Gogh and Cézanne  
France, now with intense colors had their own cubism  
developed. „, not those tight lines like Braque and Picasso, but  
a game of contrasts, light and dark. "

## **Snow**

Above the sofa hangs her favorite work. Jaap Weijand painted in  
1919 Early snow in October. You see that white next to that beautiful  
autumn red leaves on trees. That just will not fall yet.

Here fights fall to winter. „ See those blobs of paint he  
then just as has spread? That somewhat rough, which I find so beautiful  
the Bergen School. "

Also Filarski, Colnot, Schwarz, Mountain and make the brothers Wiegman  
furore, but around 1925, some choose their own path. others  
extinguishes the fire. If the collector Peter Bergen Boendermaker not  
more can buy their art, they make less work freely and produce them  
for the market. There are other painters to Bergen  
expressionists like Van Herwijnen, Cellar and Kuijten. Also belonging  
the collection Smithuis. Even that would fit well with the beautiful  
Mons collection of the Stedelijk Museum Alkmaar. Nevertheless:  
Smithuis want to just outside the region see these painters, so that  
that the public can grow to their work, art is not  
region-specific. „ Also at the Alkmaar museum is therefore welcome  
Singer. '

### **to Dort**

Renée Smithuis worked at daily De Dort to when she one day a  
auction walked. They fell for a painting by Anthonie de  
Lorme from 1642. „ I bought it and immersed myself in the background.  
Fascinating. I searched further, changed my taste and I ended up  
at the Bergen School. "

The hobby became an addiction, while her work: the art trade. She  
sought and bought, with or without help from others, work that characterizes  
is for that flow. „ Sometimes the art market was terrible, you had  
sell a painting you did not want to lose. "

The donation upsets her, but also reassures. „ My children  
agree. Grandchildren, I said that they ever their  
children can walk through the museum. If they in a painting

my name as a donor you are, tell them I was.

That idea they were still very nice. "

The giver shines.

### **Bergen School in Singer 'gift for everyone'**

Director Jan Rudolph Lorm of the Singer Laren Museum calls  
donation Renée Smithuis „ gift for all of us. "

„Museums do not accept more complete collections. You are currently browsing  
highlights that are missing from your collection, but complements this gift  
For our complete period. Because we come to a  
collection of classic modern art, the period 1880-1940, the 'second  
Golden Age'. It was virtually the Bergen School, the then  
European measurement misery avant-garde. If that works later hangs opposite  
Impressionists like Mauve and Israel, you will see how powerful these  
Bergen School is now. "

The forthcoming exhibition shows mainly the collection Smithuis, the  
key piece "Le songe du vagabond 'Le Fauconnier. „ That is our  
'Altar'. "