

# WILLIAM THUILLIER

## *Old Master and British Paintings*

14 Old Bond Street

London W1S 4PP

Tel: 0207 499 0106 - Fax: 0207 233 8965

Mobile: 07831 238 760

Website: [www.thuillart.com](http://www.thuillart.com) - Email: [thuillart@aol.com](mailto:thuillart@aol.com)

VAT NO 503 1432 87

***By appointment only***

### **JOOST VAN GEEL (Rotterdam 1631 – 1698)**

#### **The Card Players**



*Oil on panel: 19 ½ x 20 ¼ in. 49.5 x 51.5 cm.*

*Exhibited: Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum, on loan  
1947-58*

*Manchester City Art Gallery, on loan 1964-82*

*Literature: 'Abridged Catalogue of the Pictures at Doughty House, Richmond', 1903, p.35, no.174, as Metsu J.A.König, 'A Catalogue of the Paintings at Doughty House, Richmond' Vol.II, 1914, no.282 illus.as Metsu 'signed on the bench in the foreground' M.W.Brockwell, 'Abridged Catalogue of the Pictures at Doughty House, Richmond', 1932, p.43, as 'authentic.....'*

Although traditionally accepted as a work by Gabriel Metsu when it belonged to the Cook Collection at Doughty House, this panel has recently been re-attributed to Joost van Geel by Adriaan Waiboer of the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin. Dr. Waiboer curated the Gallery's 2010 exhibition devoted to Metsu, and has kindly pointed out that Van Geel's paintings have frequently been subsumed into the Metsu oeuvre on account of their subject matter and stylistic similarity.

Van Geel was a widely travelled painter who visited France, England and Germany before settling in Rotterdam and specialising in genre scenes of card players and musicians, although he also executed marines and rather indifferent portraits. His interiors, however, reveal him to be a close follower of Metsu, and the quality of his work is close enough to Metsu's to be mistaken for the master's. He shares Metsu's focus on richly attired ladies wearing hooded gowns trimmed in white fur. Such women appear in Van Geel's *Mother with Nurse and Child* in the Boymans-van Beuningen Museum, Rotterdam, and constitutes the second figure in the present *Card Players*. They look downward, with heavily accented eyelashes. Elsewhere in our work the artist reveals himself to be a virtuoso of still-life painting, in such details as the carpeted table set with fruit, and the foreground violin resting on the stool.

Dr. Waiboer has kindly drawn attention to two similar works by Joost van Geel, one in the Nationalmuseum in Stockholm, and another which was with Sotheby's in 2008.