

Léon Spierenburg

Dutch painter Léon Spierenburg (1952), son of artist Leen Spierenburg, was born in Spaarndam, a little village near Haarlem, Holland. He studied at the Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam from 1968 to 1971 and from the early seventies started exhibiting still lifes and landscapes. His early work is influenced by the previous generation of renowned Haarlem still life painters (Boot, Verwey), but quite soon he develops his own characteristic style.

In the last few years the range of subjects of his figurative paintings has been noticeably extended: church interiors, townscapes, and nudes, although still life has remained Spierenburg's central theme.

A bottle, a bowl, or a dish – on a table or in a window – is quite often a source of inspiration for his oils and water colours. With minimal means the painter achieves great power of expression, causing the viewer to experience both the intensity of the object depicted and that of its surroundings. His predilection for simplicity is also evident in his other, more monumental work. His recent church interiors and nudes prove his ability to express the essence of his aesthetic style and a large variety of moods on larger canvases.

Spierenburg's work is immediately recognizable through its intimacy and sober style, an effect which he achieves by leaving out everything superfluous. He also paints the lights in a masterly way, sometimes preferring to leave out the central object to show just the light and the shadows on his studio wall.

Spierenburg is one of the permanent exhibitors at *De Galerie* in Haarlem, where he lives and works, and at *Galerie Spierenburg & Ramón* in Antwerp, Belgium. His solo exhibitions draw a large and varied crowd of visitors, who are always fascinated by the authenticity and tranquillity of his work. His paintings have also been exhibited at the KunstRAI in Amsterdam and at other art fairs.

A selection of Spierenburg's oil paintings can be found on www.degalerie.nl.