

Paris, July 14th, 2015

Subject: *Portraits of Marten Soolmans and of Oopjen Coppit by Rembrandt*

Dear Sir,

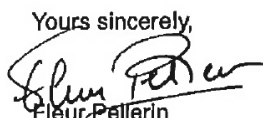
Recently, we have been informed of your intention to sell Rembrandt's portraits of Marten Soolmans and Oopjen Coppit, for which you have requested – and received – a cultural objects certificate from the French authorities. Given the cultural importance of these portraits, owned by your family since 1877, we very much wish to ensure their permanent public display in Europe, if possible.

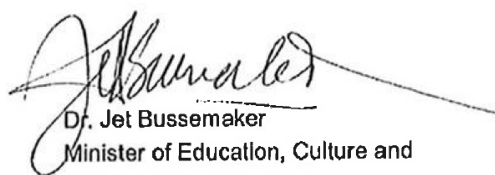
We know that you have discussed this matter with the president director of the Louvre. More recently you have spoken to the directors of the Rijksmuseum, on the occasion of which they made a proposal to acquire both paintings for the Rijksmuseum.

There is also another possibility, which would benefit the national collections of both our countries, and reflect the profound connection between your family and our respective national collections. In this alternative, the Rijksmuseum and the Louvre will each acquire one of the paintings under the agreement that the paintings will always be shown together, alternatively in both museums.

We are confident you will truly appreciate the significant meaning of our common commitment in terms of a stronger cooperation inside Europe for the promotion of culture. Probably, the European dimension of such a project would facilitate its funding in our two countries.

We mandate Mrs Marjan Hammersma, Dutch Director General for Culture and Media and Mr. Vincent Berjot, French Director General for Heritage, to accommodate and support this process. If you wish, they can also discuss the further details and possibilities with you.

Yours sincerely,

Fleur Pellerin
Minister of Culture and Communication
France


Dr. Jet Bussemaker
Minister of Education, Culture and
Science, The Netherlands