

	Object:	Cardsharps and Fortune Teller
	Museum:	Szépművészeti Múzeum Dózsa György út 41. 1146 Budapest
	Collection:	Régi Képtár
	Inventory number:	REK_610

Description

At the beginning of the seventeenth century, it was in Rome that the artistic heart of all Europe beat. Everyone who was anyone thronged there from every corner of the continent to see the masterpieces of antiquity, and the modern classics Raphael and Michelangelo, who eventually surpassed the ancients. But on arriving there, quite a few pupils were more enchanted by radical contemporary movements, particularly the provocative art of Caravaggio, and quickly forgot the classical greats. Perhaps it is no coincidence that the legacy of Caravaggio was first taken on by the young artists from the North (Holland, Flanders, France), whose home traditions laid closer to his naturalistic approach than those of the Italians, who pursued the celestial copy of reality. One of them was the French Nicolas Régnier, who grew up in Flanders. The monumental Card Players is the epitome of all that the northern youths did to transform what they inherited from Caravaggio. We rove through a decadent world, where ancient greatness has ebbed, and antique marbles are used as drinking benches. There are no upright heroes, only wily tricksters and foolish simpletons roam the ruins. All manner of parasites from nocturnal life - card tricksters, palm-readers, pickpockets, courtesans - have gathered here to rob the victims posing in fashionable clothes, their gaze all the emptier for that. The merrymakers mourn not the loss of the fortune squandered this night, but their entire, wasted, lives. Axel Vécsey

Basic data

Material/Technique:	canvas / oil
Measurements:	174 x 228 cm

Events

Painted	When	1623-1626
	Who	Nicolas Régnier (1588-1667)
	Where	

Keywords

- Painting