

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW



*“Dulle Griet” or “Mad Meg”, by Pieter Bruegel, The Elder (1525/30-1569).
c. 1562, oil on wood. Museum Mayer van den Bergh © Collectiebeleid.*

Since its discovery by Mayer van den Bergh at an auction in Cologne in 1897, this painting has become famous worldwide. Many theories exist about its significance, but the most generally accepted among art historians is that it is, first and foremost, an apocalyptic image – an attack both on human vice and the political and religious turmoil of Bruegel’s time. Whatever the painting’s true meaning, in *“Dulle Griet”* Bruegel depicts, as his friend, the Flemish scholar and geographer Abraham Ortelius, wrote, “that which cannot be painted” – the cosmic, all-encompassing horror of mankind, desperate to escape from irrevocable punishment. Or as Berthold Brecht described it: “the world at the end of its tether”.

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