

## Painting by Frans Van Mieris, early portrait by Alex Katz enter the collection of the National Gallery of Art



At its January 2016 Board of Trustees meeting, the National Gallery of Art acquired a number of works including an extraordinary painting by Dutch master Frans van Mieris (1635–1681), an early portrait by Alex Katz (b. 1927) of his wife, Ada, a remarkable trompe l'oeil painting by an unknown 17th-century Dutch artist, and a deluxe-format artist's book with 80 woodcuts by Joan Miró (1893–1983).

Alex Katz's *Portrait of Ada* (1959), his wife and muse, represents a breakthrough in his approach to the figure, one that revolutionized his art. Cropped dramatically with lively brushwork and slight asymmetries, this painting combines an early pop awareness of advertising imagery and posed snapshots with the immediacy of direct observation.

This painting was purchased courtesy of the Avalon Fund.

"We are delighted with the acquisition of these important works by Frans van Mieris, Alex Katz, Joan Miró, and others, which strengthen the Gallery's collection," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art. "We are grateful as well to our donors whose continuing generosity deepens and enriches the nation's art collection."