



**Louis-Henri Hans' portrait**  
Laurent Cadeau  
Oil on canvas  
1838, France



**Holy-water font**  
Ivory, wood  
18<sup>th</sup> century, Dieppe



**The ghost paintings**

## Louis - Henri Hans' donation

Louis - Henri Hans was born in Bailleul in 1794 (second year of the Republican calendar, which was four years before Benoît De Puydt's birth). He died in Paris on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1879. As he was single, he donated an important collection to his native city. It consisted of 82 objects among which 64 paintings were made by contemporary painters: several among them are exhibited at the Salon de l'Académie des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

At the end of the First World War, the museum had to be evacuated. A list of artworks was prepared. On 6<sup>th</sup> March 1918, only two military trucks appeared, therefore only a small part of the artworks could be taken with them. They were directed towards Eu and Martainville in the Département of Seine Maritime. From Hans' donation only 5 paintings and one object which was an ivory font remained.

## The ghost paintings

Using the inventory listings of Edouard Swynghedauw, who was the museum's first curator, Laurent Guillaut, who was curator in the 1990's, had the descriptions of the lost works recopied, while respecting their dimensions. It is up to each of us to recreate them in our imagination ... The five remaining paintings are the *Portrait of the donor* by Laurent Cadeau (1837) and genre scenes.

In 2010, the *Ekphrasis* collection, published by Invenit, asked Mrs Françoise Lison-Leroy, a Belgian writer, to read one of them, *Intérieur de cuisine* by Martin Drölling. It outlined the fictional life of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century household through the eyes and life of a young maid, in a story called *Jeanne, en douce*.