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The Dissolute Household ca. 1663–64

Jan Steen Dutch

Steen often made himself the butt of his own jokes, placing his self-portrait at the center of domestic chaos. Here, the artist entwines his fingers with those of the maid, who pours his wife a generous serving of wine. Broken glass, a mischievous cat, and romping young boys contribute to the general impression of a household run amok. Suggestions of an ominous fate hang literally over the family's heads, in the form of a basket containing a beggar's crutch and can, as well as clappers, then used to warn of leprosy or the plague, and the jack of spades, signifying misfortune.

On view at The Met Fifth Avenue in [Gallery 86c](#)

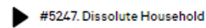
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Object Details

Artist:	Jan Steen (Dutch, Leiden 1626–1679 Leiden)
Date:	ca. 1663–64
Medium:	Oil on canvas
Dimensions:	42 1/2 x 35 1/2 in. (108 x 90.2 cm)
Classification:	Paintings
Credit Line:	The Jack and Belle Linsky Collection, 1982
Accession Number:	1982.60.31

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