

KLAAS MULLER

D A V I D D E C O N I N C K

Dogs around their Booty

In this dramatic hunting still life, David de Coninck captures a moment of tension and triumph. A group of dogs gathers around their prey—deer and game birds—laid out in the foreground of a shadowy woodland. The animals, painted with striking realism and emotional presence, seem both proud and alert, guarding the spoils of the hunt.

De Coninck, a master of Flemish animal painting and a pupil of Jan Fyt, was renowned for his dynamic compositions and rich palette. His works often blend naturalistic detail with theatrical staging, and this canvas is no exception. The dark, moody background contrasts with the vivid textures of fur and feathers, heightening the sense of drama.

More than a celebration of the hunt, this painting reflects themes of loyalty, instinct, and the complex relationship between man, nature, and animal. It stands as a powerful example of 17th-century Flemish baroque, where still life meets narrative.

Oil on Canvas, 121 x 165 cm

We are grateful to Prof. Fred Meijer for his attribution to David De Coninck.

