



Zuha Tareen. “Zoom Meeting of the *Officers and Men of the Company of Captain Franz Banning Cocq and Lieutenant Wilhelm van Ruytenburgh*, known as the Night Watch”. Digital Image. 19/5/2020.

I’ve appropriated *The Night Watch* (1642) by Rembrandt, which we touched upon in our course while looking at Baroque art and Western art, and changed the context. The image is meant to have a humorous undertone, partially commenting on the frequency of video calls, or Zoom calls, during the quarantine period and how it may have been interesting to see figures from previous eras in this situation. I was also pushed to use this artwork after reading about its historical context and seeing the restorative efforts taking place right now, such as a high quality image of this painting being made available online during quarantine. I also had the privilege of seeing the Rembrandt gallery at the Rijksmuseum myself and learned a lot about the surrounding areas and the context of militia groups like the one in the painting.

*The Night Watch*, as a painting, has often been considered a mystery by art historians as the characters have been difficult to name, aside from the Captain and Lieutenant. Therefore, I decided to bring in more of today’s context into it by giving them usernames very reminiscent of deep internet culture, sort of playing with the “time travel” aspect of it. The act of muting everyone but the Captain is also intentional to the original meaning of the piece and based on the historical contexts of Dutch militia groups. Moreover, I have also tried to loosely mimic the composition in terms of character placement.