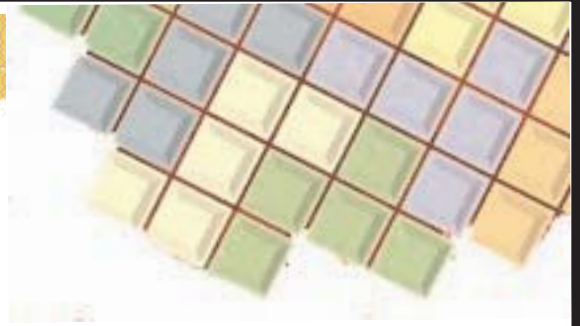


# CHASING VERMEER



## Reader's Challenge Solution

This is how the message can be uncovered:

The code in the art is adapted from Calder's code, on page 57. Hidden in the art of the odd-numbered chapters are one pentomino and one to three frogs. The frogs represent the numbers in Calder's code. For example, in Chapter One there is a 'V' pentomino (in the lower painting) and there are two frogs (one in the top painting and one in the middle), equaling  $V:2$ , which represents the letter T on Calder's code. In Chapter Three, a 'V' pentomino and one frog equal  $V:1$ , which represents the letter H, and so on.

The Solution:

Chapter One:  $V:2 = T$

Chapter Three:  $V:1 = H$

Chapter Five:  $P:1 = E$

Chapter Seven:  $Z:1 = L$

Chapter Nine:  $F:1 = A$

Chapter Eleven:  $N:1 = D$

Chapter Thirteen:  $F:3 = Y$

Chapter Fifteen:  $Z:1 = L$

Chapter Seventeen:  $W:1 = I$

Chapter Nineteen:  $X:2 = V$

Chapter Twenty-one:  $P:1 = E$

Chapter Twenty-three:  $U:2 = S$

The message is:

THE LADY LIVES.

