

口述 / 托马斯·S·卡普兰博士 莱顿收藏创始人 采访、整理 / 本刊记者 岳岩

卡普兰 我为什么收藏伦勃朗

编者按：2017年6月17日至9月3日，莱顿收藏(The Leiden Collection)携70余件绘画藏品亮相中国国家博物馆。这是莱顿收藏的首次全球巡展，希望借此推动公众更广泛地了解与欣赏17世纪荷兰的艺术杰作。由托马斯·S·卡普兰博士(Dr. Thomas S. Kaplan)夫妇创办的莱顿收藏是目前全球最大的荷兰黄金时代艺术作品私人收藏之一。此次藏品展是荷兰黄金时代画作在华夏有史以来最大规模的展示，其中包含11幅伦勃朗画作——这也是伦勃朗画作数量最多的私人收藏。

我收藏伦勃朗及伦勃朗流派的绘画最开始只是因为喜欢他。6岁时我在美国大都会艺术博物馆首次见到伦勃朗的绘画，我感觉可以通过这件作品和他本人进行对话。之前我一直认为他们的作品是买不到的，后来才知道私人藏家可以买到一部分。于是我和太太开始了对这一画派的收藏。加之我本身是学习历史的，这个时代代表了艺术的创新，是知识大爆炸时代新思想的源泉。

收藏的起初只是个人喜欢，到后来分

THOMAS S.KAPLAN:
WHY DO I COLLECT REMBRANDT?



扬·利文斯 (1607 ~ 1674)
《身着斗篷和头巾的男孩
(巴拉丁的鲁伯特王子肖像)》
木板油画 66.7×51.8cm
1631 年作

享这些收藏就变成一种责任，我希望更多的人可以看到伦勃朗以及“荷兰小画派”对时代的贡献。这不是为了我自己，我是美国人，而伦勃朗是荷兰人，我也并没有以自己的名字为收藏组织命名，命名“莱顿收藏”是因为莱顿是伦勃朗的家乡，这个收藏机构是为了纪念艺术家而生。

我太太之前收藏西方古董家具，荷兰的这批画作是我们在绘画方面的唯一收藏。当代艺术家我们也会关注，但并没有看到让我们心动以及对时代的改变如伦勃朗一样的艺术家。我为莱顿收藏购入的第一批画作来自伦勃朗的门生格利特·杜。2006年，我和夫人开始购买伦勃朗画作，一开始购买了素描《静卧的幼狮》和油画《戴白帽的女子》。之后的时间，我们迅速以及大量购买了伦勃朗真迹和伦勃朗学生的作品。很快，莱顿收藏中伦勃朗流派的画作成为除国家级博物馆之外，数量最多、范围最广和内涵最深刻的收藏系列。我们在2016年购入的伦勃朗作品《不省人事的病患(嗅觉寓言)》，是目前已知最早有伦勃朗亲笔签名的画作。

伦勃朗在他的时代是一个天才，他

的绘画摆脱了贵族和教会的控制，开创了全新的时代。如果说他对我有影响的话，就是我在成长的过程中始终坚信真实与真相，我通常喜欢前瞻性地看问题，有时对发生的问题做出的判断会面临许多反对，然而随着事情的发展，总能证明我是对的。但这些都不足以与伦勃朗做对比，毕竟我们都是普通人，而他不是。

除了伦勃朗的作品，我还推荐大家关注扬·利文斯《身着斗篷和头巾的男孩(巴拉丁的鲁伯特王子肖像)》这件作品。我认为这张画本身就象征了中西方的统一与结合，有着浓烈的东方韵味。“荷兰小画派”的很多作品都有着中西方统一的审美，这也是此次中国巡展，我们希望大家传递的。推荐这件作品还有一个原因，2004年，我们将扬·利文斯的画作借给盖提美术馆，以匿名私人收藏家的身份提供借阅支持。从那之后，遵循“敞开门”的原则，莱顿收藏成为世界级荷兰黄金时代绘画作品的“借阅图库”。多年来，莱顿收藏共出借藏品172次，比如纽约大都会艺术博物馆、巴黎卢浮宫等20多家博物馆，不断为世界各地的临时特展和博物馆的永久馆藏提供藏品支持。👍

Art Trade Journal	June 2017	Yue Yan
<p>“Thomas S. Kaplan – Why do I collect Rembrandt?”</p>		
<p><i>From June 17 to September 3, 2017, The Leiden Collection will bring some 70 paintings to be exhibited in the National Museum of China. Following its debut at the Louvre, this represents the first exhibition of the Leiden Collection’s international tour to promote masterpieces of 17th century Dutch art. Established by Dr. Thomas S. Kaplan and his wife, The Leiden Collection is the largest private collection in the world of Dutch Golden Age paintings. Featuring 11 works by Rembrandt and several other masterpieces, this show will constitute the most important exhibition of paintings from the Dutch Golden Age in the history of China.</i></p> <p>I collect the works of Rembrandt and his School simply because I am fascinated by him. When I was six, I saw Rembrandt’s paintings for the first time at the Metropolitan Museum in New York. I thought I could talk to him through his paintings. Yet I believed that it was impossible to own any of his works, until I learned that some of them could still be acquired from private collectors. My wife and I therefore started collecting works of his School shortly thereafter. I happen to be a historian by training. This period in time embodied the very notion of creativeness in the arts, and it remains a source of inspiration and new ideas in our present era characterized by expanding knowledge.</p> <p>Collecting started off as a hobby and evolved into a responsibility – specifically, to share the collection with the general public. It is my hope that more people will be able to appreciate the contribution that Rembrandt and the works of the “Fijnschilders” made to this period in time. This is not about me. I am an American and Rembrandt was Dutch. I did not name the collection after myself. In fact, we named it “The Leiden Collection” after Rembrandt’s hometown. The establishment of the collection is a tribute to the artist.</p> <p>My wife is a collector of modern design furniture. These Dutch masterpieces represent our only collection of paintings. We pay attention to contemporary artists too, but are yet to find anything that touches our heart, or any artist that changes an era, like Rembrandt did. The first painting that I acquired for The Leiden Collection was produced by Rembrandt’s first student, Gerrit Dou. In 2006 my wife and I started buying works by Rembrandt. We began with <i>Young Lion Resting</i> and <i>Study of a Woman in a White Cap</i>. After that, and in a short amount of time, we acquired several authentic works by Rembrandt and students of his. The Leiden Collection rapidly became the largest, broadest, and most meaningful collection of the Rembrandt School outside of national museums. Rembrandt’s <i>Unconscious Patient (Allegory of Smell)</i>, which was purchased in 2016, is known to be the earliest painting signed by the Dutch master himself.</p> <p>Rembrandt was a genius of his time. His works, free from aristocratic and clerical constraints, introduced a brand-new era. As to his influence on me personally, I would probably say that he strengthened my belief in truth and reality. I like to look at problems with foresight. I tend to get a lot of opposition when I make a judgment on some issues,</p>		

but I would often be proved right as time goes on. None of this can be compared with Rembrandt though. After all, we are ordinary people and he was not.

In addition to the works by Rembrandt, I would recommend paying attention to *Boy in a Cape and Turban (Portrait of Prince Rupert of the Palatinate)* by Jan Lievens. I believe that this painting symbolizes the unity between, and integration of, East and West, with a strong oriental charm. This is what we wish to convey through this exhibition. There also happens to be another reason for recommending this painting. In 2004, we loaned some pieces by Jan Lievens to The Getty Center, including that one, thereby starting our support to various art institutions as an anonymous private collection. Since then, The Leiden Collection has become a world class “Lending Library” of Dutch Golden Age paintings. Over the years, we have extended over 170 loans to more than 20 museums such as the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Louvre in Paris, providing support for their short-term special exhibitions as well as permanent collections.