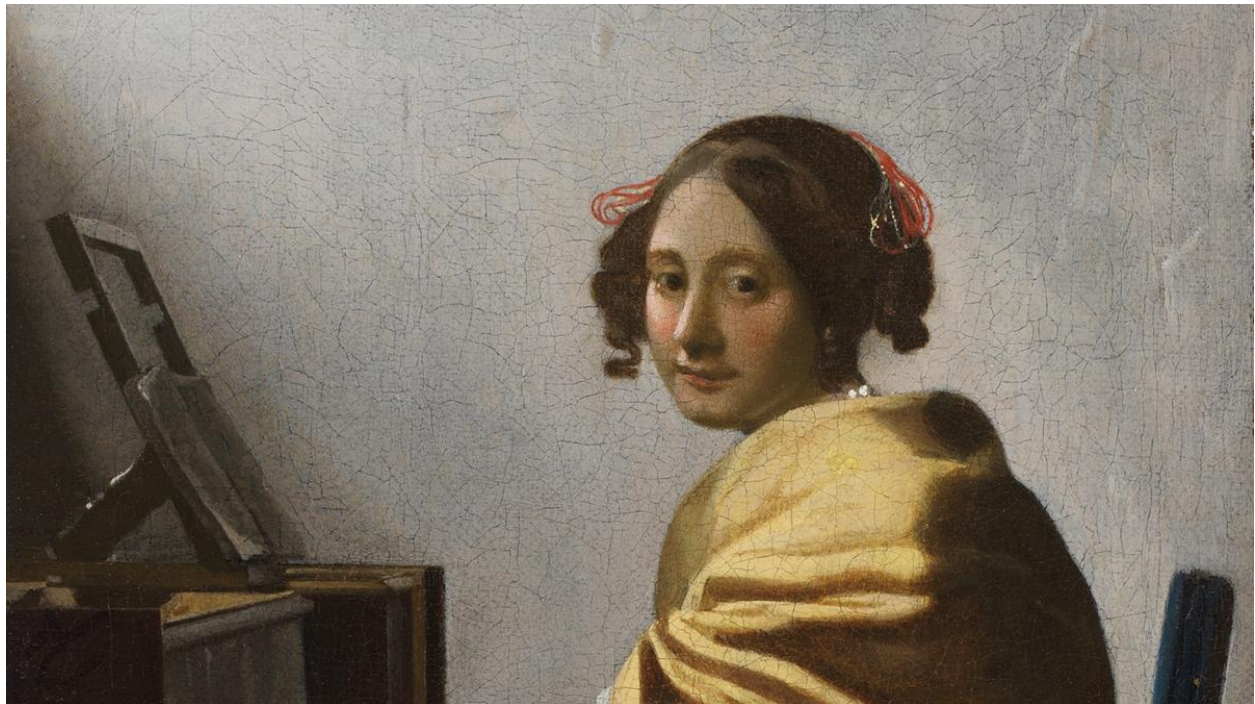


## Rembrandt and Vermeer focus of latest Louvre Abu Dhabi exhibition

Rupert Hawksley | Jan 16, 2019

*Rembrandt, Vermeer and the Dutch Golden Age Masterpieces from The Leiden Collection and the Musée du Louvre opens next month*



Young Woman Seated at a Virginal (c.1670), detail, by Johannes Vermeer (1632-1675), Oil on canvas

Two of Johannes Vermeer's most celebrated paintings will hang next to each other for the first time in 300 years as part of a new exhibition at Louvre Abu Dhabi that celebrates the Dutch masters.

Rembrandt, Vermeer and the Dutch Golden Age Masterpieces from The Leiden Collection and the Musée du Louvre features 95 artworks, including 22 paintings and drawings by Rembrandt.

Vermeer's *Young Woman Seated at a Virginal* and *The Lacemaker*, which are painted on canvas cut from the same bolt of cloth, will be among the star attractions.

"This is the very first time a blockbuster exhibition of the Dutch masters has come to the UAE and it is extremely special that two Vermeer paintings from the same piece of

canvas have been hung next to each other for the first time in 300 years," said Manuel Rabaté, director of Louvre Abu Dhabi.

The exhibition, which opens on February 14, seeks to explore Rembrandt's relationship with his peers, including Vermeer, Jan Lievens, Frans van Mieris and Frans Hals.

During the 17th and early 18th century, the Netherlands became a hub of trade, scientific discovery and creativity – otherwise referred to as the Golden Age. The show will assess the artistic traditions that flourished in this Golden Age and trace the roots of the 'fijnschilders' – or fine painters – school of painting that emerged during this time.

The fijnschilders are recognised for their meticulous renderings of daily life.



Rebecca and Eliezer at the Well (c.1645) by Ferdinand Bol (1616-1680)

The works on display by Rembrandt are taken from across his career, including his time in Leiden and Amsterdam, and include *Self-Portrait with Shaded Eyes* and *Minerva in Her Study*. They will be displayed alongside works by other artists to illustrate the way the group influenced each other.

Blaise Ducos, chief curator of Dutch and Flemish paintings at the Musée du Louvre, said the exhibition tells an "extraordinary story" of the Golden Age.

***Rembrandt, Vermeer and the Dutch Golden Age Masterpieces from the Leiden Collection and the Musée du Louvre runs from Feb 14-May 18 at Louvre Abu Dhabi. For more information, visit [www.louvreabudhabi.ae](http://www.louvreabudhabi.ae)***