

## Rembrandt, Vermeer and the Dutch Golden Age: the Leiden Collection and the Musée du Louvre

30 JANUARY 2019



In 2017 the Musée du Louvre presented a selection of masterpieces by 17th-century Dutch painters including works from the Leiden Collection, the largest private collection of Rembrandts. This is an expanded version of that important show, covering key specialities of Dutch art from the time of Rembrandt and including excellent pictures by the likes of Vermeer, Jan Steen, Jan Lievensz, Frans van Mieris, Gerrit Dou, and others.

This blockbuster of an exhibition will feature an impressive 95 artworks, including paintings, drawings and objects. Among them are 22 paintings and drawings from Rembrandt's career and his workshop, including his *Self-Portrait with Shaded Eyes* (above). Vermeer's *Young Woman Seated at a Virginal* (from the Leiden Collection) and *The Lacemaker* (from the Musée du Louvre) will hang together for the first time in 300 years, two paintings on canvas cut from the same bolt.

The exhibition is curated by Blaise Ducos, Chief Curator of Dutch and Flemish paintings at the Musée du Louvre, and Lara Yeager-Crasselt, Curator of the Leiden Collection.

Thomas Kaplan, founder of the Leiden Collection, said his family considers Louvre Abu Dhabi to represent “the single most important cultural initiative of our generation”. This exhibition of treasures from the Dutch Golden Age he called “our greatest ‘passion project’ ... By bringing The Leiden Collection to Abu Dhabi in collaboration with the Musée du Louvre, we gratefully honour our deep relationship with France as well as our profound partnership with the Emirates, the shared values of which extend from wildlife conservation to preserving endangered cultural heritage.

“We also pay homage to the genius of Rembrandt and Vermeer, whose transcendent influence and illuminating insights continue to inspire artists and the public across the globe and right up to the present time. More than any other painter’s legacy, we believe Rembrandt’s ability to touch the soul represents a uniquely fitting expression of this visionary Franco-Emirati project seeking to promote tolerance and the common civilisation of mankind.”

Alongside the exhibition, Louvre Abu Dhabi will run a programme of film screenings, a pop-up costumed performance in the museum galleries, and talks and workshops.



**Johannes Vermeer The Lacemaker, c1669-70**



Jan Lievens, Boy in a Cape and Turban  
(Portrait of Prince Rupert of the Palatinate), c1631



Rembrandt van Rijn, Bust of a Bearded Old Man, 1633