

Louvre Abu Dhabi introduces Rembrandt, Vermeer and the Dutch Golden Age



Louvre Abu Dhabi February 09, 2019 in Abu Dhabi. The Louvre Abu Dhabi, the first museum to carry the famed name outside of France, announced Sunday it would roll out works by Dutch masters Rembrandt and Vermeer this month. KARIM SAHIB / AFP.

ABU DHABI.- The Louvre Abu Dhabi, the first museum to carry the famed name outside of France, announced Sunday it would roll out works by Dutch masters Rembrandt and Vermeer this month.

Works by the two artists are part of the gallery's first exhibition this year, entitled "Rembrandt, Vermeer and the Dutch Golden Age: Masterpieces from The Leiden collection and the Musée du Louvre". The exhibit, on display in the United Arab Emirates' capital from February 14 to May 18, is dedicated to the famed "fijnschilders" -- fine painters -- of the Netherlands.

"Rembrandt is a master of the Golden Age," museum head Manuel Rabaté told AFP.

"He's a universal genius, he's connected to the world."

The exhibition includes 95 works, including Vermeer's *Young Woman Seated at a Virginal* alongside Rembrandt's *Portrait of a Man* and *Study of the Head and Clasped Hands of a Young Man as Christ in Prayer*.

The Louvre Abu Dhabi was inaugurated with great pomp in November 2017 -- nearly five years behind schedule -- by French President Emmanuel Macron and Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

It was marketed as "a universal museum" celebrating cultural exchange and tolerance.

The museum has reportedly cost the UAE around \$1 billion, including upwards of \$500 million to use France's "Louvre" brand.

Officials have never confirmed the price tag.



A picture taken on February 9, 2019, shows people hanging a painting entitled *Study of the Head and Clasped Hands of a Young Man as Christ in Prayer*, oil on oak panel, by Dutch painter Rembrandt on display at the Louvre Abu Dhabi, in the Emirati capital. The Louvre Abu Dhabi, the first museum to carry the famed name outside of France, announced Sunday it would roll out works by Dutch masters Rembrandt and Vermeer this month. KARIM SAHIB / AFP.