



Rembrandt, Dutch Masterpieces on Exhibit at the Norton Museum

Gerry and Pamela Barker · Art, Books & Music · November 1, 2025 · 6 min read

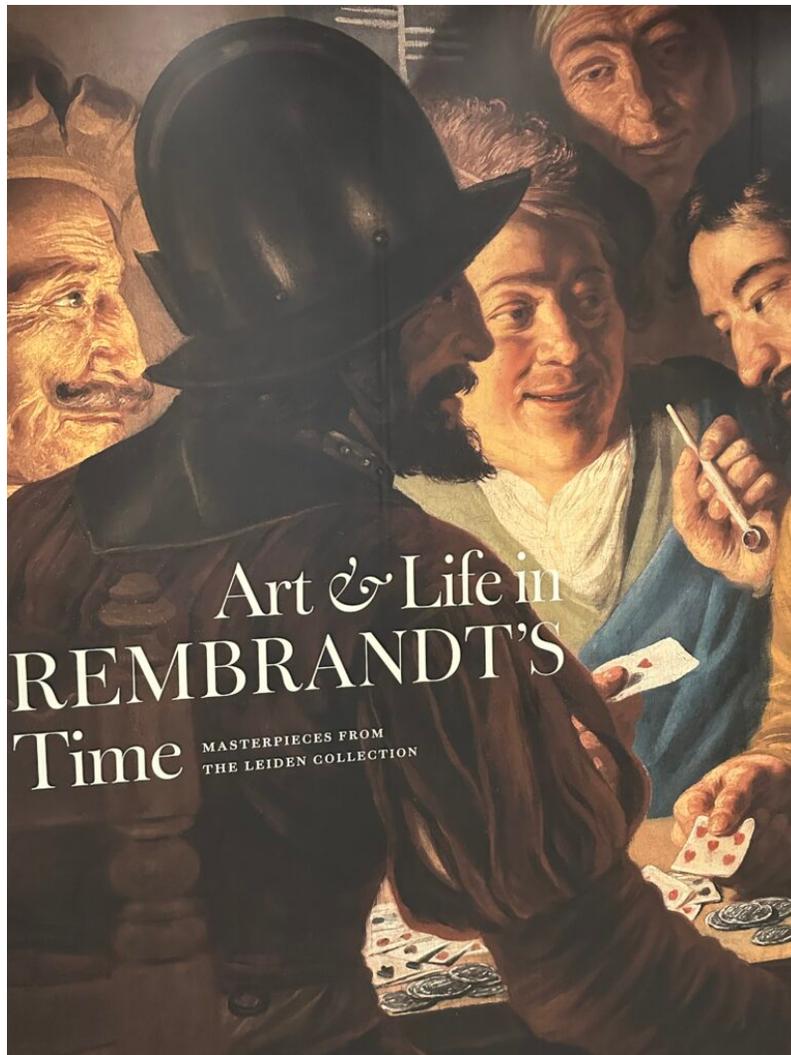


Rembrandt exhibit at the Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach

By Gerry Barker

Photos by Gerry Barker

You know an artist has achieved fame when he is called by just one name: Picasso, Monet, Matisse, Dali. Another artist you could place at the top of that list — Rembrandt.



Now, the largest exhibit of privately held Dutch 17th-century paintings ever organized in the United States, including 17 paintings by Rembrandt, is being shown at the Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach. "Rembrandt's Time: Masterpieces from The Leiden Collection," is on view from Oct. 25, 2025, through March 29, 2026.

On loan from the Leiden Collection, one of the world's largest private collections of 17th-century Dutch art, and named after the city where Rembrandt began his career, the exhibit coincides with the 400th anniversary of the Dutch founding of New Amsterdam on the island of present-day Manhattan.



Rembrandt paintings on display

The works are masterfully displayed in a third-floor gallery at the Norton, where visitors are given wristbands upon entry to manage the number of guests during a specific time slot. The aubergine-colored walls, subdued lighting and use of drapes convey an elegance that befits these Dutch masterpieces. The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated, 150-page catalogue with detailed entries on each painting and an exploration of Dutch life in the 17th century, available for purchase in the museum store.

Organized thematically, it offers a window into everyday life in 17th-century Netherlands. “One of the most remarkable facts about Rembrandt and his circle is that their artworks continue to connect with audiences, hundreds of years after they were painted,” said Elizabeth Nogrady, Curator of The Leiden Collection in a press release. “These artists had an uncanny ability to tap into the continuity of human experience, which makes them continually relevant — even in very different times.”

Ghislain d’Humières, Kenneth C. Griffin Director and CEO of the Norton Museum of Art, noted that, “An exhibition like ‘Art and Life in Rembrandt’s Time’ has never been seen before in our region. “It is an honor to host this impressive exhibition at the Norton, the first of its kind in America.”



Rembrandt paintings

From top left: "Portrait of a Man in a Red Coat," "Unconscious Patient (Allegory of Smell)," and "Minerva in Her Study." Center left: "Study of a Woman in a White Cap," "Portrait of a Young Woman" and "Portrait of Antonie Coopal." Bottom: "Self Portrait With Shaded Eyes."



From left: "Cat Crouching on the Ledge of an Artist's Atelier" (Dou), "Self-Portrait, Behind a Parapet" (Bol) and "Old Woman at a Window With a Candle" (Dou)



"Hagar and the Angel" by Carel Fabritius

There are also works from the Dutch Golden Age of art by students of Rembrandt, including Gerrit Dou (“Old Woman at a Window With a Candle,” “Scholar Interrupted at His Writing,” “Cat Crouching on the Ledge of an Artist’s Atelier”) and Ferdinand Bol (“Self-Portrait, Behind a Parapet”). Carel Fabritius, considered by many as Rembrandt’s greatest pupil, and the inspiration for Donna Tartt’s 2013 novel, “The Goldfinch,” is represented by “Hagar and the Angel,” his only privately-held work



Pieter van Laer's "Self-Portrait With Magic Scene."

Dutch master Johannes Vermeer, famed for his “Girl With a Pearl Earring,” is represented with his “Young Woman Seated at a Virginal” — the sole example of the artist’s work in private hands. One of the most striking paintings is Pieter van Laer’s “Self-Portrait With Magic Scene.” The artist, who is known for having a “macabre fascination with the underworld,” is shown recoiling in fear from the claws of the devil, surrounded by the trappings of black magic, including a skull sitting on burning coals.



Jan Lievens' "Card Players"

The soldiers in Jan Lievens' "Card Players" are said to be indicative of tavern scenes in the 1620s when military conflict had an ongoing presence in the Netherlands. It also highlights the skillful use of light to be found in so many of the paintings in this exhibit. Also notable is Lievens' "Boy in a Cape and Turban," depicting Prince Rupert of the Palatinate.



“Young Woman Feeding a Parrot,” by Frans van Mieris

Included in the collection is “Young Woman Feeding a Parrot,” by Frans van Mieris. Known for his paintings of the life of wealthy Dutch citizens. In this work, “a richly dressed young woman with a fashionable hairstyle has just interrupted her needlework—a needle cushion is on her lap and a thimble is on one of her fingers—to feed the tame gray parrot sitting on one of the perches of a fine wooden stand.”



“A Woman Selling Game From a Stall” (Metsu)

Dutch artist Gabriel Metsu specialized in painting market scenes, and one of his works on display is “A Woman Selling Game From a Stall.” It shows a “female vendor of game and poultry who holds up a large hare by one of its paws for the approval of a young female customer. The coin the young woman holds in her hand indicates that the vendor has been successful in her marketing efforts.”

The Leiden Collection includes more than 220 works from 17th century Dutch artists, and was assembled over a 20-year period by Thomas S. Kaplan and his wife, Daphne Recanati Kaplan.



“Boy in a Cape and Turban” (Jan Lievens)

“Since the day Daphne and I founded The Leiden Collection, we conceived of it as a lending library for some of the world’s most consequential artists,” said Thomas Kaplan in a press release. “After nearly 15 years of anonymous lending to over 80 museums, armed with a message of Rembrandt as ‘The Universal Artist,’ the Collection has spent the better part of the past decade traveling the world. We are particularly thrilled to be the first to share Rembrandt and Vermeer with my home state of Florida, where I spent a truly wonderful part of my youth. We hope visitors will be as moved as we are by the enduring power of Rembrandt, his students, and his peers.”

After a viewing, one can’t help but leave in awe of seeing these masterpieces up close and for a brief moment, feeling part of 17th century Dutch life.

(Our thanks to the [Norton Museum of Art](#) for hosting us.)