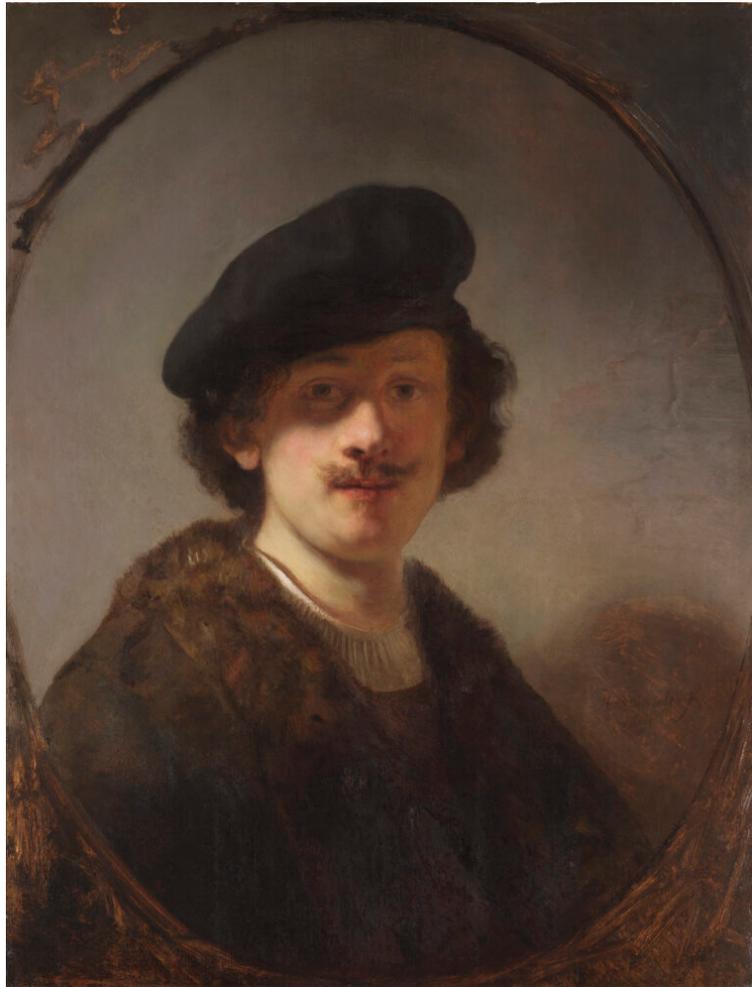


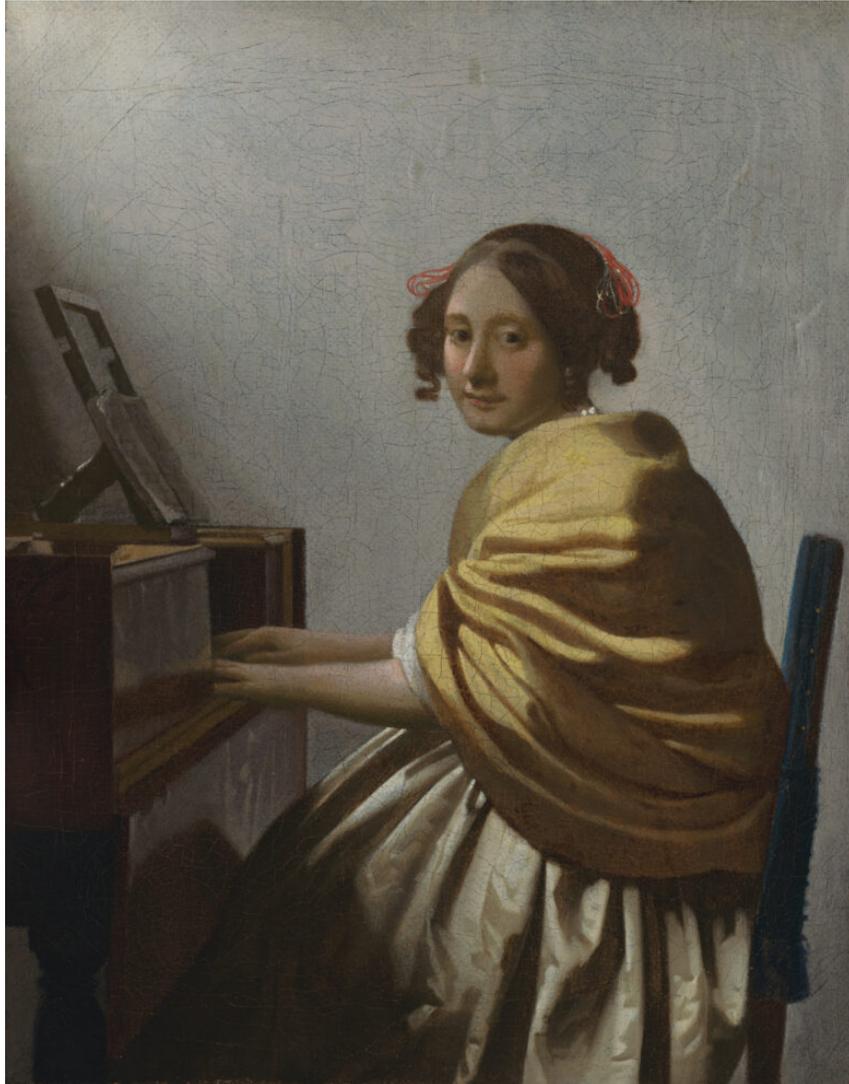
Art Exhibit of the Year: 17 Rembrandts, a Hals, and a Rare Vermeer at The Norton Museum

NOVEMBER 3, 2025
KAREN ESCALERA



*Rembrandt van Rijn (Dutch, Leiden 1606 -1669 Amsterdam)
Self-Portrait with Shaded Eyes, 1634 Oil on panel
28 x 221/16 in. (71.1 x 56 cm)
The Leiden Collection, New York*

A "must see" exhibit that I was privileged to preview is now on view at The Norton Museum of Art, "*Art and Life in Rembrandt's Time: Masterpieces from The Leiden Collection*". It features works by Rembrandt van Rijn, Frans Hals, and Jan Steen, as well as the only works in private hands by Johannes Vermeer and Carel Fabritius. More than 70 works by 27 artists are on view from The Leiden Collection — one of the world's most important private collections of 17th-century Dutch art. The Rembrandt exhibit at the Norton Museum runs from now through March 29, 2026, it is the largest show of privately held Dutch 17th-century paintings ever organized in the United States.



*Johannes Vermeer (Dutch, Delft 1632 -1675 Delft) Young Woman Seated at a Virginal, circa 1670 -1675 Oil on canvas
101/16 x 715/16 in. (25.5 x 20.1 cm)
The Leiden Collection, New York*

It was envisioned to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the Dutch founding of New Amsterdam on the island of present-day Manhattan. These exceptional works span the full career arc of the Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn with 17 of his paintings on display throughout the galleries, showing the fascinating evolutions in both his style and technique as well as the only head to toe portrait of him he ever painted.



*Frans Hals (Dutch, Antwerp 1582/83 -1666 Haarlem)
Portrait of Samuel Ampzing, 1630 Oil on copper
6 7/16 x 4 7/8 in. (16.4 x 12.4 cm)
The Leiden Collection, New York*

"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. "These artists had an uncanny ability to tap into the continuity of human experience, which makes them continually relevant — even in very different times."



*ISAAC DE JOUDERVILLE (Dutch, Leiden circa 1612 – 1645/48
Amsterdam)*

Portrait of Rembrandt in Oriental Dress, circa 1631

Oil on panel

22 7/8 x 19 7/8 in. (70.8 x 50.5 cm)

Framed: 39 x 30 11/16 x 2 3/4 in. (99 x 78 x 7 cm)

The Leiden Collection, New York

The exhibition reflects The Leiden Collection's mission of building bridges through art and follows its blockbuster shows at some of the most prestigious national museums in the world including the Louvre, the Pushkin and Hermitage museums, the National Museum of China, and Louvre Abu Dhabi.



The installation itself is very well done. Walls are painted a deep burgundy and lighting is subtle yet exceptional , setting off the rich tones of the paintings.

Of considerable prominence in the Rembrandt exhibit at the Norton Museum are Rembrandt's magisterial *Minerva in Her Study*, 1635, the most important of Rembrandt's history paintings in a private collection; the master's exquisite oval *Young Girl in a Gold-Trimmed Cloak*, 1632; and his *Self-Portrait with Shaded Eyes*, 1634, which presents a young Rembrandt staring directly at the viewer.



GERRIT DOU (Dutch, Leiden 1613 – 1675 Leiden)

A Young Woman Playing a Clavichord, circa 1665

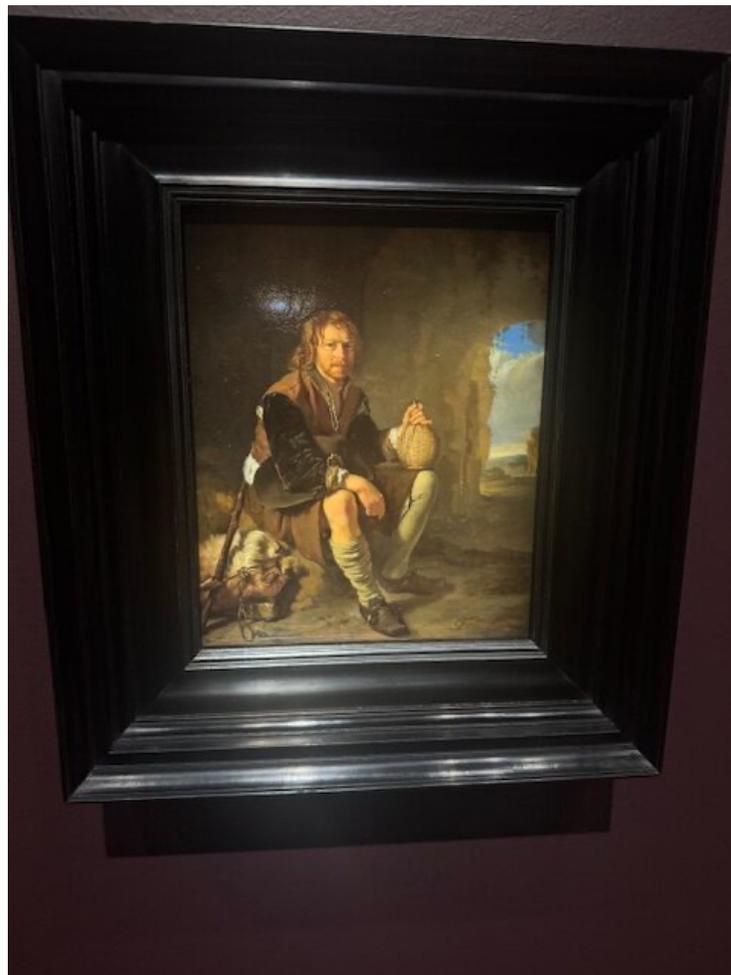
Oil on panel with arched top

13 1/4 x 10 in. (33.7 x 25.4 cm)

Framed: 19 1/8 x 16 1/8 x 2 1/4 in. (48.6 x 41 x 5.7 cm)

The Leiden Collection, New York

Special highlights include Vermeer's *Young Woman Seated at a Virginal*, circa 1670 – 1675 — the sole example of the artist's work in private hands, which was featured in the Rijksmuseum's transcendent show of 2023, *Vermeer* — and *Hagar and the Angel*, circa 1645, the only privately-held painting remaining of Carel Fabritius — Rembrandt's greatest pupil and the inspiration for Donna Tartt's 2013 acclaimed novel *The Goldfinch*. The exhibition also showcases works by other Amsterdam artists intimately connected to Rembrandt, including his influential teacher, Pieter Lastman, and talented students such as Ferdinand Bol, Govaert Flinck, and Arent de Gelder.



*FRANS VAN MIERIS THE ELDER (Dutch, Leiden 1635 – 1681
Leiden)*

Traveler at Rest, circa 1657

Oil on copper

8 1/2 x 7 in. (21.6 x 17.8 cm)

Framed: 13 x 11 1/4 x 2 1/4 in. (33 x 28.5 x 5.7 cm)

The Leiden Collection, New York

The Leiden Collection, assembled over the past two decades by Thomas S. Kaplan and his wife, Daphne Recanati Kaplan, comprises more than 220 paintings and drawings by many of the finest Dutch 17th-century artists. Named after Rembrandt van Rijn's native city, The Leiden Collection illuminates the personalities and themes that shaped Dutch art over five generations.



*Thomas Kaplan and REMBRANDT VAN RIJN AND WORKSHOP (Dutch,
Leiden 1606 – 1669 Amsterdam)*

Portrait of Antonie Coopal (circa 1606 – 1672), 1635

Oil on Brazilian Chestnut (Sucupira)

32 7/8 x 26 5/8 in. (83.5 x 67.6 cm)

Framed: 42 1/4 x 36 1/4 x 2 3/4 in. (107.3 x 92 x 7 cm)

The Leiden Collection, New York

"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. "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."



REMBRANDT VAN RIJN AND WORKSHOP (Dutch, Leiden 1606 – 1669 Amsterdam)

Man with a Sword, 1644

Oil on canvas

40 1/4 x 35 in. (102.2 x 88.9 cm)

Framed: 55 11/16 x 50 3/8 x 3 15/16 in. (141.5 x 128 x 10 cm) The Leiden Collection, New York

The Rembrandt exhibit at The Norton Museum 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.

The museum restaurant has a new chef. Based on the super delicious tuna ceviche I had there, it's well worth a stop. There's indoor and outdoor seating overlooking the sculpture garden. And don't miss the wonderful shop which I've written about in the past. Don't want to drive? Take the Brightline, making for a stress free outing.

[The Norton Museum of Art](#), 1450 South Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach, FL.