

News



Rembrandt's Young Lion Resting is coming to Abu Dhabi (Credit: Sotheby's)

A rare Rembrandt drawing worth up to Dhs73m is coming to Abu Dhabi

And you can see it for free

By [Findlay Mair](#) November 3, 2025

An ultra-rare drawing by one of the most highly regarded artists of all time is coming soon to Abu Dhabi.

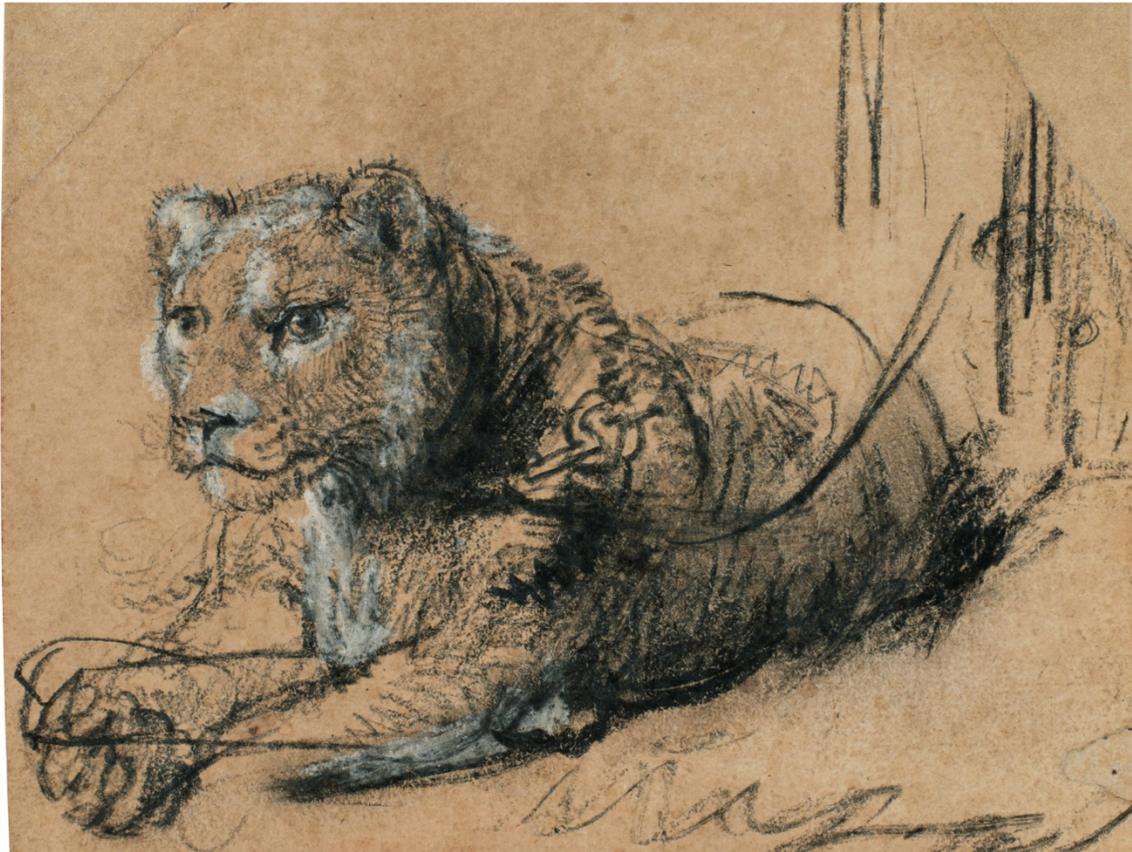
Rembrandt's *Young Lion Resting*, valued at up to Dhs73million (\$15m – \$20m), will be showcased in the UAE capital before going up for auction in New York.

The drawing is among the most important drawings of the Old Master period of art and is a very rare example of its kind from Rembrandt's body of work.

It will return to Abu Dhabi between Tuesday December 2 and Saturday December 6 at St Regis Saadiyat Island Resort, as part of [Sotheby's Abu Dhabi Collectors' Week](#).

It's a rare opportunity to see the drawing by the 17th-century Dutch artist, as it has spent the past two decades as part of the acclaimed private Leiden Collection. The drawing was previously exhibited in 2019 at Louvre Abu Dhabi.

Why Rembrandt's *Young Lion Resting* is so significant



Rembrandt's *Young Lion Resting* dates back to between 1638 and 1642 (Credit: Sotheby's)

Only Rembrandt drawings of a lion are currently known to be in existence, with two held in the collection at the British Museum and three additional pen and wash drawings of lions housed in the Louvre in Paris, the Boijmans Van Beuningen Museum in Rotterdam and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam.

Rembrandt is believed to have been fascinated by curiosities and exotica, and lions would certainly have fallen into that category in 17th-century Europe. Often depicting historical and biblical stories in his paintings and prints, he likely would have wanted to study how to make truly lifelike drawings of lions.

Dr. Thomas S. Kaplan, Founder of wild cat conservation charity Panthera and the Leiden Collection, said: “Rembrandt was clearly fascinated by lions – exotic creatures rarely found in Europe at the time – and, as in this drawing, was somehow able to instill in them a greater and deeper interior life than most artists ever could to a human subject.”

The drawing itself depicts a young lion in three-quarter view, wearing a leash around its neck, suggesting that it was drawn in the immediate aftermath of a close encounter with a lion – likely from one of the many private menageries found in The Netherlands at the time.

Gregory Rubinstein, Sotheby’s Head of Old Master Drawings, said: “What is most remarkable about Young Lion Resting is the way Rembrandt combines sheer technical mastery with an ability seemingly to see into the very soul of this noble creature.

“Drawn from life with extraordinary energy and movement, it is a work of breathtaking skill.

“Only in the greatest drawings does every stroke, every minute modulation of tone, feel so perfectly judged, and convey so much. Young Lion Resting is one of the most significant Old Master drawings to appear at auction in decades.”

Proceeds of the sale to benefit the conservation of wild cats



Dr. Thomas S. Kaplan, Founder of wild cat conservation charity Panthera and the Leiden Collection (Credit: Supplied)

When the drawing sells at auction, proceeds will benefit the world's leading wild cat conservation charity **Panthera**, with an estimated value of up to Dhs73m (\$15m and \$20m).

Prior to its sale at the Sotheby's Masters Week Sales in New York next February, the drawing is going on a global tour.

It will appear in Paris between Monday November 3 and Tuesday November 4, before spending 11 days on public display in New York between Saturday November 8 and Monday November 17.

The drawing will then move back to Europe at Sotheby's in London between Friday November 28 and Monday December 1. It will then travel to Abu Dhabi to go on display during Abu Dhabi's Collectors Week between Tuesday December 2 and Saturday December 6.

The drawing will then be on display at Sotheby's in Hong Kong between Monday December 8 and Wednesday December 10. The drawing will then return to the GCC for a two-day viewing in Saudi Arabia between Saturday January 24 and Monday January 26.

Free. Tue Dec 2 – Sat Dec 6. St Regis Saadiyat Island Resort, Saadiyat Island. [sothebys.com](https://www.sothebys.com)