

## Rembrandt's \$20m Young Lion Resting to be auctioned by Sotheby's

The rare drawing will be displayed in London later this month and sold in New York in February

Adam Sage, Paris

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Young Lion Resting by the 17th-century Dutch master Rembrandt is due to be sold next year  
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A rare drawing of a lion by the 17th-century Dutch master Rembrandt has been unveiled before its auction in New York next year.

*Young Lion Resting* is to be sold with an estimate of \$15 million to \$20 million by Sotheby's. But Thomas Kaplan, the Franco-American art lover who has the biggest private Rembrandt collection, hoped it would become the most expensive drawing ever, beating the \$47.8 million paid for Raphael's *Head of a Young Apostle* in 2012. Kaplan said that "\$50 million is a fine target".

Sotheby's said the charcoal-and-chalk work was "among the most important Old Master drawings to come to auction in recent decades".



Thomas Kaplan made his fortune investing in silver, platinum, gold and hydrocarbons

FRANCOIS GUILLOT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The Leiden Collection, owned by Kaplan, is named after the Dutch town where Rembrandt was born in 1606. It is selling the work to create an endowment for Panthera, the wild cat conservation charity Kaplan co-founded in 2006. He pledged that the proceeds would go to Panthera.

When Rembrandt produced *Young Lion Resting* in the 1630s, there were an estimated one million lions in the world. Today between 23,000 and 39,000 lions remain in the wild, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

At a presentation of the work in Paris, Kaplan, 63, said: “The lion consists of the literal embodiment of my two greatest passions: Rembrandt and big cats.”

Kaplan, who made his fortune investing in silver, platinum, gold and hydrocarbons, said Rembrandt had drawn the lion after moving to Amsterdam. He is likely to have seen it in a menagerie there. The Dutch East India Company would bring animals from north Africa.

“For me Rembrandt is the most impactful painter of all time,” he said. “Very, very few painters can give as much inner life to a human as Rembrandt gives to the lion.”

Sotheby’s said the drawing conveyed “the quiet intensity that speaks to the true essence of the creature”. *Young Lion Resting* will be displayed in London later this month and sold in New York in February.