TheRembrandtDatabase Newsletter #6, February 2017

research resource on Rembrandt paintings

Karlsruhe's Self Portrait available online • Recently added: Saint Bartholomew • New documentation online • Contribution by Professor of Chemistry Dr. Erich Uffelman. • New partnership: National Gallery Prague • The Rembrandt Database presents: project associate Liesbeth Mulder

Now online: 12,832 files, 255 paintings, 53 collections

Ultraviolet light studies: black and white photograph (print), 1998, Rembrandt, Self Portrait with beret and red cloak, c. 1645, Staatliche Kunsthalle Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe, inv./cat. no. 238

Available online: Karlsruhe's Self Portrait

This month technical documentation and art-historical information of the 'Self Portrait with beret and red cloak' from the Staatliche Kunsthalle in Karlsruhe were made available on The Rembrandt Database. The Staatliche Kunsthalle was so generous to share their documentation, including an ultraviolet photograph from 1998 and an examination report by Dr. Hermann Kühn.

Aside from the documentation which we received from the Staatliche Kunsthallen, documentation from other institutions on this painting was also added to the database, such as an X-ray from 1956 which is held at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam.

New documentation in The Rembrandt Database

In December, we published the art-historical information and technical documentation on paintings from the collection of The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (UK); Musée Départemental des Vosges, Epinal; The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City; Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester; The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota; Museum Bredius, The Hague; Musée des Beaux-arts, Tours and Galleria Sabauda, Turin.

Recently added: Saint Bartholomew from the Worcester Art Museum

The database has been enriched with data on the 'Saint Bartholomew' from the Worcester Art Museum (Massachusetts). This work was painted in the workshop of Rembrandt, about 1633.

In the past the painting was treated several times by paintings conservator Edmond de Beaumont. In 1936 he was appointed as the first conservator of the museum. During his forty-year tenure at the museum, De Beaumont documented a large part of the collection with X-radiographs, infrared and black and white photography. The museum shared an infrared photograph and black and white photographs made by De Beaumont in 1958 as well as reports of 1958 and 1965 , and other documents.

Using the Rembrandt Database at the Interface of Undergraduate Teaching and Research

Dr. Erich Uffelman (Bentley Professor of Chemistry, Washington and Lee University)

I teach two courses on the technical examination of 17th century Dutch painting to undergraduates at Washington and Lee University (Lexington, VA, USA). The Rembrandt Database is one of the key resources my students use for their research projects. Most of the students following these courses have no experience with chemistry and no experience with art history. It is essential to give them a "crash course" in scientific methodology and in the relevant art history of the Dutch Golden Age. On both counts, the Rembrandt Database is critically important. For modern scholarship, students must know how to search and read traditional literature, but they must also master online scholarly resources.

During one of the two courses, my students and I travel to The Netherlands, bringing portable research equipment such as a portable X-ray fluorescence spectrometer (pXRF) and multispectral imaging equipment. Thus, in addition to studying the research literature, the students participate in acquiring research data at Dutch museums.

We have published studies with Dutch institutions such as the Frans Hals Museum, The Mauritshuis, and Stichting Restauratie Atelier Limburg and have a collaboration underway with the Rijksmuseum and the Chrysler Museum of Art that will lead to a publication. We have also performed technical studies with the Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, the Dordrechts Museum, and private conservators performing projects for other Dutch museums.

Combined with our published and ongoing research projects with US museums and academic institutions, my students get to connect the acquisition of research data with the data that have been compiled in the Rembrandt Research Database. We are grateful for our many years' friendship with Sytske Weidema, Project Manager of this project, and we are grateful for everyone who has worked for and/or contributed to the marvelous ongoing Rembrandt Database.

From left to right: Jorinde Koenen, Erich Uffelman and Mireille te Marvelde position Washington and Lee University's pXRF for measurements on a painting by Maarten van Heemskerck at the Frans Hals Museum

New Partnership: National Gallery Prague

We are pleased to announce that The National Gallery of Prague and the RKD – Netherlands Institute for Art History have agreed to collaborate on The Rembrandt Database. As a result of our collaboration, art historical information and technical documentation on the Rembrandt painting *Scholar in his study* from this collection will be accessible on our website in the course of this year.

Presenting Liesbeth Mulder

Liesbeth Mulder (1987) joined The Rembrandt Database team as a project associate in January 2017. Until the end of this year she will work on the entry of art-historical data on paintings. She will also add technical documentation from the archive of the Rembrandt Research Project to the database.

Liesbeth studied art history at the University of Groningen. During her Museum Curator Master's degree program she worked as an intern at the Centraal Museum in Utrecht. After graduating in 2014, she followed an internship at the Fries Museum in Leeuwarden. At the end of 2015, she started working at the RKD and has contributed to various projects.

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