

# The Rembrandt Database Newsletter #7, May 2017

research resource on Rembrandt paintings

Revision of the website, part two •  
Collaboration KIK-IRPA • New  
partnership: Städel Museum  
Frankfurt • Rembrandt Research in  
Dresden and The Rembrandt  
Database • Collaboration Wallraf -  
Richartz-Museum • The Rembrandt  
Database presents: Cally Brandt



**Now online: 12,938 files,  
265 paintings, 59 collections**

Rembrandt, 'Portrait of Nicolaes van Bambeeck', 1641,  
Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels, inv.no.155



## Collaboration KIK-IRPA in Brussels

In June the collaboration between The Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA) and the RKD- Netherlands Institute for Art History will start. As a result of this collaboration art historical information and technical documentation on the Rembrandt painting 'Portrait of Nicolaes van Bambeeck' in the collection of the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium (KMSKB) will be made accessible on The Rembrandt Database.

The KIK-IRPA is a federal scientific institute for the documentation, study and conservation-restoration of the cultural and artistic heritage of Belgium. The institute is a unique resource for scientific, photographic and technical documentation.

Documentation that is kept by the KMSKB will also be presented in the database.

## Revision of the website, part two

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, we are developing a new website for our database. All preparations for this process have been made and the actual work has now commenced. In the last few months, we have been working on the back-end of the website. This month, work on the front-end will start. When this is complete, the Rembrandt Database will run on the software of the RKD, ensuring its maintainability and sustainability in the future.

As soon as the website has been launched, new data will be presented online. The date of the launch of the new website will be announced on our LinkedIn page as soon as possible.

## New partnership: Städel Museum in Frankfurt

With great pleasure, we announce that the RKD and the Städel Museum in Frankfurt have come to an agreement about collaborating on the Rembrandt Database. We plan to present their Rembrandt paintings, including 'The blinding of Samson', before the end of this year.

## Rembrandt Research in Dresden and The Rembrandt Database – a promising cooperation

*Dr. Uta Neidhardt (curator of Dutch and Flemish paintings, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden – Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister)*

The Dresden Old Masters Picture Gallery stores an outstanding and varied group of 26 paintings which are by or connected with Rembrandt. From the very beginning of the database project we therefore had a common interest to work together in order to share all information we have collected so far relating to our Rembrandt group. Starting with four paintings in 2014 – including the ‘Rape of Ganymede’ which had been restored from 2003 to 2005 – we proceeded with the three remaining Rembrandts including ‘The wedding of Samson’ in 2015. Thanks to the exceptionally well-documented historical treatments in the Dresden Gallery we were able to add this information to the database, which could be of interest to colleagues dealing with the restoration history of Rembrandt paintings. On the other hand, incorporating the Dresden Rembrandt material into the database enables us to collect and reevaluate all our Rembrandt data from different times and origins.

Now in a third phase, we have started to add a group of 6 paintings by unknown artists close to Rembrandt and later successors to the database. It is particularly interesting for us to compare paintings of this group with similar examples in respect to their technical structure, underpainting, etc. We are excited about the many possibilities the database offers in general and also for further research in our own collection.

Rembrandt, ‘The wedding of Samson’, 1638, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden – Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister, Dresden, inv. no. 1560



## Wallraf-Richartz’s Rembrandts in our database

We are pleased to announce that the Wallraf-Richartz-Museum has agreed to collaborate on the Rembrandt Database project. One of the highlights of their collection is Rembrandt’s ‘Self portrait as Zeuxis’. The build-up and composition of the ground layer of this painting were examined in 1995 by Karin Groen and Paul Broekhoff for the Rembrandt Research Project. Information and documentation on this painting as well as on the ‘Christ at the column’ and ‘Scholar at his desk’ will be available on our website in the course of this year.

## Presenting Cally Brandt



**Cally Brandt (1987)** works as an English editor for the Rembrandt Database. She was born in Hagerstown, the United States and received her bachelor’s in archaeology and visual arts from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). She went on to earn her master’s in art history from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, where she did research on the differences in techniques and materials used by forgers of Auguste Rodin drawings.

After her studies, she worked in development at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) and taught a course on land art for The Contemporary in Baltimore. In 2012, Cally immigrated to Leiden and she began volunteering for the Rembrandt Database, where she works on the newsletter and grant requests, among others.

Since 2016, Cally has been living in Montreal. She is currently an executive assistant and in her free time volunteers at the local art school, organizing community outreach events, and independently curating.

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The Rembrandt Database is generously funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and coordinated by the RKD – Netherlands Institute for Art History