

The Rembrandt Database Newsletter #8, September 2017

research resource on Rembrandt paintings

Rembrandts from the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart • Collaboration Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon • New partnership: Dulwich Picture Gallery • Doerner Institut in Munich • Study day and roundtable in Rome • The Rembrandt Database presents: Reinier van 't Zelfde



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

Studio of Rembrandt, 'Self portrait' of Rembrandt with a red beret, c. 1660, Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Stuttgart, inv. no. 2614



Collaboration Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon

We are pleased to announce that the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon has agreed to collaborate on the Rembrandt Database. The museum houses Rembrandt's earliest signed and dated painting; *The stoning of Saint Stephen*.

As a result of our partnership with the C2RMF in Paris, the center for research and conservation of the French museums, we already published some documents of Lyon's Rembrandt on our website. Thanks to our collaboration with the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon this data will be complemented by early technical photographs as well as a recent high-resolution image. These research documents will be published on our website as soon as possible.

The Rembrandts from the Staatsgalerie in Stuttgart

In June of this year our collaboration with the Staatsgalerie in Stuttgart began. Research assistant Sandra-Kristin Diefenthaler is currently working on an inventory of Stuttgart's research documentation on the 'Self portrait' of Rembrandt with a red beret, *The apostle Paul in prison* and *Tobias healing his blind father*.

When the 'Self portrait' of Rembrandt with a red beret was acquired by the Staatsgalerie in 1962 as a Rembrandt, discussions about its authenticity gave rise to controversy. This led to the first research (in collaboration with the Doerner Institut in Munich, KIK-IRPA in Brussels and the Institut für Technologie der Malerei an der Staatliche Akademie der bildenden Künste in Stuttgart) in which scientific examination played a key role in determining authenticity in the history of Rembrandt research.

New partnership: Dulwich Picture Gallery

The RKD and the Dulwich Picture Gallery have agreed to collaborate on The Rembrandt Database. Dulwich holds three Rembrandt paintings, among which Rembrandt's famous *Girl at a window*. All three paintings will be added to the database, with art-historical information and research documentation.

Doerner Institut in Munich

Since the 1960s, the Doerner Institut has been involved in the art-technological investigation of Rembrandt's paintings and his workshop. Paintings from the collection of the Alte Pinakothek in Munich and from 25 other collections worldwide have been examined. The resulting cross-sections, X-rays, analysis reports etc. can be found today in the archives of the Doerner Institut.

In the past four years conservator Jeanine Walcher examined and photographed the samples that were taken in the 60's by Prof. Hermann Kühn and in the 80's by Prof. Andreas Burmester. At the time, the studies were done under the umbrella of a large project on grounds (and to a lesser extent pigments) in Rembrandt paintings of which the results were published in *Jahrbuch der Staatliche Kunstsammlungen in Baden-Württemberg*, part 2 (1965), *Maltechnik Restauro* no. 82 (1976) and *Maltechnik Restauro* no. 83 (1977). In the context of the Rembrandt Database, Prof. Kühn was interviewed about this project and kindly provided information about the samples and documentation.

The database presents images from samples in UV and bright field, sample forms, the results of specific types of sample analyses such as XRD (Debye-Scherrer), slides and additional sample documentation. Also, Jeanine Walcher found documentation on paintings not related to sample analysis, such as X-rays, infrareds and many black and white photographs, and as such connected research data with documentation already available online.



Cross-section from lower left leg in *Self portrait as the prodigal son*, Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister, Dresden. Light microscopy capture in normal light, by Jeanine Walcher, May 2013.

Study day and roundtable in Rome – June 26th, 2017

During the study day and roundtable discussion "Digital Archives for the History of Art and the Diagnostic", in Rome on June 26th, speakers discussed several ways of presenting art historical and technical data. Among the speakers were prof. Ron Spronk (University Nijmegen and Queen's University, Kingston) and prof. Gunnar Heydenreich (Cologne University) about their databases on Bosch and Cranach, respectively. The study day also focused on Caravaggio and a monographic database. Gail Feigenbaum (Getty Museum) touched on how to approach private owners and share data, and maintaining high quality data. With the RKD working on new user interfaces and new features for performing research, it was fruitful to see examples of implementing research tools.

Presenting Reinier van 't Zelfde



Reinier van 't Zelfde (1967) was trained as a specialist in the field of museum registration and documentation at the Reinwardt Academy. In 1999 he graduated as an art historian from Leiden University.

Reinier has been working for the RKD since 1990 and from 2012 as the Head of IT & Digitization. He was involved with the development of databases at the RKD from the start and is responsible for the set-up and maintenance of all digital products such as Iconclass, Art & Architecture Thesaurus (in Dutch) and The Rembrandt Database.

Reinier developed the first version of RKDtechnical, which was later to become the basis of the Rembrandt Database. In the past few years Reinier has been responsible for the integration of RKDtechnical into RKDexplore. When this is complete, the Rembrandt Database will run on the software of the RKD, ensuring its sustainability in the future.

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