

# The Rembrandt Database Newsletter #4, May 2016

research resource on Rembrandt paintings

Gemäldegalerie Berlin research project • Rijksmuseum X-ray films online • A Corpus of Rembrandt Paintings • Zeph Benders and the History Painting from the Lakenhal • Sample documentation RCE • The Rembrandt Database presents: project associate Marijke Heslenfeld



**Now online: 11,083 files, 205 paintings, 25 collections**

And more content is in preparation; please keep an eye out for updates on our [website](#)!

X-ray film, 18-06-1956, Rembrandt, Bust of a woman smiling, possibly Saskia van Uylenburgh, dated 1633, Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister Dresden



## Rijksmuseum X-ray films online

A selection of X-radiographs from the Rijksmuseum has been added to the database, among which X-rays of paintings from The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister in Dresden.

The Rijksmuseum keeps a large collection of X-rays of not only paintings from their own collection, but also of paintings from other institutions. A substantial part of these X-rays were produced during the landmark Rembrandt exhibition, which was held at the Rijksmuseum and the Museum Boijmans van Beuningen in 1956. During this exhibition no less than 68 paintings (of the 101 exhibited) were examined with X-radiography.

More Rijksmuseum X-radiographs of paintings from other collections will be presented in the database over the course of the project.

## Research project Gemäldegalerie Berlin (almost) completed

On April 18<sup>th</sup> another five Rembrandt paintings from the Gemäldegalerie were presented in The Rembrandt Database. By the end of June our colleagues in Berlin – Claudia Laurenze-Landsberg and Katja Kleinert – will complete the art-historical and technical research of the Rembrandt paintings. The collaboration with the Gemäldegalerie has been unique regarding the intense research they have performed and all the results they have gathered. By combining technical and art-historical research within an interdisciplinary team the project has achieved innovative and most interesting results.

The extensive art-historical information and the visual and textual data that has emerged from technical analyses of all 26 Rembrandt paintings in the collection of the Berlin Gemäldegalerie will be made available in The Rembrandt Database.

## A Corpus of Rembrandt Paintings

Last year The Rembrandt Database introduced the digital edition of the first five volumes of *A Corpus of Rembrandt Paintings*. You can view and search the text in your browser or download them as pdfs. In the near future we aim to present images of higher quality, offer a clickable index, speed up the downloading process, present the texts in a book viewer and make links to the specific paintings in The Rembrandt Database.

## Conservation treatment of Rembrandt's "History Painting", 1626

Zeph Benders (Paintings Conservator, Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands)

Currently the Leiden *History Painting* is undergoing full conservation treatment. The treatment and accompanying research is a collaboration between Museum de Lakenhal in Leiden, where the painting has been on display since 1948, its owner, The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE), and the Rijksmuseum, who is facilitating and supervising the technical research and treatment.

When The Lakenhal temporarily closed for extensive renovation of the building the opportunity was seized to do a full examination and condition assessment of the painting due to concerns about the stability of one of the joins. The joins of the oak panel proved to be stable, but it was decided to remove the yellowed varnish that had been applied during the previous restoration of the painting in 1956. The present treatment and research is being carried out in the conservation studio of the Rijksmuseum. In September the painting will travel to Musée Jacquemart André in Paris. In 2018, before it returns to the Lakenhal for an exhibition about the Young Rembrandt, the painting will go on view in the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam.

The documentation emerging from the treatment will be made accessible in The Rembrandt Database.

During varnish removal;  
Rembrandt, *History Painting*, dated  
1626, Museum De Lakenhal, Leiden  
(on loan from RCE), inv. no. B 564



### Collaboration continued: Sample documentation from the RCE

In April this year we continued our collaboration with the RCE (Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands) in Amsterdam/Amersfoort. The RCE keeps samples and sample documentation from Karin Groen, who carried out sample analyses on paintings worldwide. In February last year we already published 139 samples and accompanying documentation from 33 paintings, such as the *Minerva* from the Gemäldegalerie in Berlin. We continued our collaboration to make another 350 paint samples from about 80 paintings accessible. The samples will be polished (where necessary) and re-photographed and textual documentation will be digitized. We aim to present - a part of - the paint sample documentation by January 2017.

### Presenting Marijke Heslenfeld



#### Marijke Heslenfeld (1987)

graduated in 2011 from the University of Utrecht as an art historian. The main focus of her study was the visual arts before 1850. During her study Marijke temporarily worked as a cataloguer at the Old Master & Nineteenth Century Art department of auction house Christie's Amsterdam. In 2012 Marijke was a trainee at the RKD department of Dutch and Flemish Old Master Paintings.

At the beginning of 2014 Marijke was appointed project associate for the Rembrandt Database. She is responsible for the entry of art-historical data on paintings and technical documentation. In the last few years Marijke has been working in close collaboration with the colleagues in the Gemäldegalerie in Berlin. In 2017 she will be working on the collection of the Hermitage.

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