

Press release



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More than 200 Rembrandt etchings in empty Westfries Museum

Largest exhibition of Rembrandt etchings ever, now on view in Hoorn



Photo: Benno Ellerbroek

Etchings of beggars on rough masonry and intimate pictures of Rembrandt's women by a 17th-century hearth. More than 200 etchings by Rembrandt can be admired in the completely emptied Westfries Museum in Hoorn during 'Rembrandt, the photographer'. From 22 June to 3 November, the museum will be entirely dedicated to the etching collection of collector Jaap Mulders, supplemented by the contemporary, Rembrandt-inspired work of Anat Ratzabi and Dennis A-Tjak. A special exhibition in a unique location: the museum is taking the opportunity to be a Rembrandt Museum for four months due to the delayed renovation.

westfriesmuseum.nl/rembrandt

The Westfries Museum exhibits the largest collection of Rembrandt etchings ever to be seen in the Netherlands. Not only is Rembrandt's masterful technique highlighted, but also his almost photographic compositions. "If Rembrandt had been alive today, he would almost certainly have been a photographer," said director Ad Geerdink during the opening of 'Rembrandt, the Photographer' on 21 June, prior to the official opening by Rijksmuseum director Taco Dibbits. "Rembrandt had an eye for the perfect picture like no other artist of his time: like a photographer *avant la lettre*."

More than 200 original Rembrandt etchings

There is no 17th-century painter who made as many etchings as Rembrandt van Rijn. He made about 300 of them and did everything himself: from sketches and etchings to prints. The exhibition in Hoorn features more than 200 Rembrandt etchings, plus etchings by related artists. And this is where Rembrandt indeed shows his photographic talent. His self-portraits, more than 20 of them, are in fact selfies. And just like Ed van der Elsken in the 1960s, Rembrandt captured the Amsterdam of his time - as in his portraits of beggars and well-known Amsterdammers, and in his landscapes around the city.

Masterpieces on rough masonry

In the emptied museum rooms of the Westfries Museum, the etchings come to life in a wonderful way. The rough walls that became visible after the removal of the paneling fit well with the beggars. Purple panels hang on the high walls of the former Schutterijzaal: an almost ecclesiastical frame for the etchings on the theme of religion. "We have made a virtue of necessity," says Ad Geerdink. "Now that the museum has been vacant for a longer period of time due to an unsuccessful tender, we can once again do what we do best and offer space for almost the entire collection of Jaap Mulders. A unique opportunity to show the largest collection of Rembrandt etchings to the public. Good for the museum and good for the city."

Also for international visitors

One thing is certainly clear in the exhibition. Rembrandt's etchings are works of art on the square centimeter. From large to super-small: Rembrandt also shows himself to be the Netherlands' greatest artist in his etching. The app, specially created by the museum, delves deeper into the stories behind these works of art, by means of text, videos with explanations by collector Jaap Mulders and visual material that can be enlarged. You can download it for free in any language at the museum. But museum staff also offer flash tours (short tours that can be joined spontaneously).

Rembrandt-selfie and etching studio

There is also a lot to do for young and old in the museum. From the Rembrandt selfie photobooth to cracking the code in Rembrandt's Attic. There is an Animal tour for the little ones and in the etching studio young and old can learn to etch. There is even a chocolate workshop where you will learn how to make a Rembrandt sculpture in chocolate. The exhibition is complemented by photographs and bronze sculptures, entirely in Rembrandt style. On the upper floor, Rembrandt-inspired flower portraits and still

lives by photographer Dennis A-Tjak are on display. And throughout the exhibition you can admire beautiful bronzes that sculptor Anat Ratzabi made in response to Rembrandt's etchings.

Rembrandt, the photographer

- Westfries Museum, Roode Steen 1, Hoorn
- 22 juni until 3 november 2024
- Tuesday to Sunday from 11:00 to 17.00 hrs
- Tickets á 12,50: westfriesmuseum.nl/rembrandt
- Youth up to 16 years free admission
- Free for Museum Card holders, VriendenLoterij VIP ticket holders, Friends of the Westfries Museum and Members of the Rembrandt Association

The exhibition 'Rembrandt, the photographer' is made possible by Imming Logistics Fine Art.

Note to editors:

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