



Rembrandt (1606 - 1669) *Self-portrait with Saskia* (DETAIL) (1636). © Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford.

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**Rembrandt in Print
17 September 2021 – 9 January 2022**

Rembrandt's finest prints go on display at Crawford Art Gallery

A new exhibition at Cork's Crawford Art Gallery invites visitors to encounter the astonishing work of Rembrandt van Rijn. ***Rembrandt in Print*** presents 50 of the Dutch Master's finest works from the Ashmolean Museum's world-class collection of over 200 etchings and drypoints.

Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669) is widely hailed as one of the greatest painters of the Dutch Golden Age and one of the most experimental printmakers of the seventeenth century. This touring exhibition presents Rembrandt as an unrivalled storyteller through a selection of outstanding prints ranging from 1630 until the late 1650s.

Through these works the public will be exposed to the artist's inventive techniques and extraordinary skills. The prints, which are almost 400 years old, are perfectly preserved and, though small in scale, reveal the exquisite, rich detail of his work. Rembrandt is best known for his self-portraits and scenes of everyday life.

The exhibition, which has been on hold for 16 months, is free to the public and open daily at Crawford Art Gallery, the only Irish venue where Rembrandt's prints can be seen. It is fitting that the Dutch Master be exhibited in the historic gallery at Emmet Place, once the city's Custom House when Cork was a thriving merchant port, due in part to Dutch trade.

An extensive educational programme from the Learn and Explore team at the Gallery will accompany this exhibition introducing a new generation of younger visitors to the work of a legendary Dutch Master.

In collaboration with Cork Printmakers, a **Print Studio** will also be set up in Crawford Art Gallery to explore the tools, processes, and practice of contemporary printmaking. Presented in parallel with **Rembrandt in Print**, it will recreate a printmaker's studio in the heart of the gallery and will be accompanied by workshops and online resources.

On the prints selected for the Irish debut, Ashmolean Curator, An Van Camp says: ***"This collection of 50 works is the best-of-the best of the Ashmolean's outstanding Rembrandt prints collection. He created extraordinary prints by using existing techniques in his own artistic and innovative way. His prints range from squiggly, drawing-like sketches to more pictorial, heavily-hatched compositions. While apparently quite diverse at first sight, all Rembrandt's printed works are characterised by his talent for storytelling and his keen observational skills. His subjects are steeped in drama, adding atmosphere to views***

of the Dutch countryside or imbuing biblical scenes with lively characters.”

While most other contemporary printmakers made prints of historical, religious, or mythological subjects, Rembrandt also delighted in presenting everyday scenes. The exhibition includes a range of these images such as intimate family studies, a selection of confronting life-drawn nudes, and carefully detailed characters observed on the streets including beggars, peasants, Ringball players, and the repugnant *Rat Catcher* (1632). A variety of subjects matters from portraiture to landscape, from the biblical to the everyday are explored in the exhibition, revealing Rembrandt's extraordinary talent but also his playful exploration of printmaking techniques.

Crawford Art Gallery's partnership with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines to bring *Rembrandt in Print* to Ireland is a fitting tribute to past and future links between Ireland and the Netherlands.

This exhibition has been organised by the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford.



Exhibition and associated programmes made possible with the support of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Cork City Council.



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Notes To The Editor:

Exhibition: *Rembrandt In Print*
Dates: 17 September 2021- 9 January 2022
Location: Lower Gallery, Crawford Art Gallery, Cork.
Free Entry

Crawford Art Gallery is the final gallery to host Rembrandt in Print on its international tour and is the only venue in Ireland.
Imagery on request.

More about Rembrandt

Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn (15 July 1606 – 4 October 1669) was a Dutch draughtsman, painter, and printmaker. An innovative and prolific master in three media, he is generally considered one of the greatest visual artists in the history of art and the most important in Dutch

art history. Unlike most Dutch masters of the 17th century, Rembrandt's works depict a wide range of style and subject matter, from portraits and self-portraits to landscapes, genre scenes, allegorical and historical scenes, and biblical and mythological themes as well as animal studies. His contributions to art came in a period of great wealth and cultural achievement that historians call the Dutch Golden Age, when Dutch art (especially Dutch painting), although in many ways antithetical to the Baroque style that dominated Europe, was extremely prolific and innovative and gave rise to important new genres. Like many artists of the Dutch Golden Age, such as Jan Vermeer of Delft, Rembrandt was also an avid art collector and dealer.

His life was not without controversy. After the death of his wife, Saskia, and three of their children, Rembrandt had an alleged intimate relationship with his housekeeper, who insisted the artist promised to marry her. She also pawned jewellery from Saskia's inheritance bequest, claiming it was a gift from Rembrandt. The artist ensured her correctional facility confinement, where she remained until 1655. Known for his excessive spending, Rembrandt died poor and misunderstood in 1669.

More about Crawford Art Gallery

Located in the heart of Cork city and free to enter, Crawford Art Gallery, is home to a collection of national importance and is a must see for locals and tourists alike. Welcoming over 265,000 visitors a year the Gallery is open seven days a week and delights in all visitors young and old.

Originally built in 1724 as the city's customs house, (when Cork was one of Europe's most important trading ports), the Gallery is described by many visitors as an "Oasis" offering the tranquillity and atmosphere only a building with such history and beauty can provide. As well as offering a stunning place for reflection, Crawford Art Gallery is right in the middle of a vibrant

shopping, cultural and hospitality area. As well both historic and modern exhibition spaces, the Gallery boasts an award-winning Café in stunning surroundings serving fresh local produce for which cork is famous.

Crawford Art Gallery is home to an expansive collection featuring works from the 18th century to present which are of key national importance and tell a compelling story of place and history. It is also home to the famous 'Canova Casts', which were gifted to the city of Cork nearly two centuries ago. Well-known and loved works by 20th century Irish artists such as Seán Keating, Harry Clarke, John Lavery, Jack B. Yeats, Norah McGuinness, Mainie Jellett, Gerard Dillon and Muriel Brandt feature in the gallery's historic collection, while the modern collection features work by contemporary artists such as Eilis O'Connell, Gerard Byrne, Dorothy Cross, Kathy Prendergast and Hughie O'Donoghue. The Gallery hosts numerous temporary exhibitions by local, national and international artists showcasing visual art, film.

More about the Ashmolean

The Ashmolean is the University of Oxford's museum of art and archaeology, founded in 1683. The world-famous collections range from Egyptian mummies to contemporary art, telling human stories across cultures and across time. The museum's collections are extraordinarily diverse, representing most of the world's great civilisations, with objects dating from 500,000 BC to the present day. Among many riches we have the world's greatest collection of Raphael drawings, the most important collection of Egyptian pre-Dynastic sculpture and ceramics outside Cairo, the only great Minoan collection in Britain, outstanding Anglo-Saxon treasures, and the foremost collection of modern Chinese painting in the western world. Visit: www.ashmolean.org/press | Tw: @AshmoleanMuseum

More about KLM Royal Dutch Airlines

KLM was established on 7 October 1919, making it the world's oldest airline still operating under its original name. Operating out of its home base in Amsterdam, the KLM Group served its global network with a fleet of 214 aircraft in 2018, employing 33,000 people. In 2017, the KLM Group generated 10 billion euros in revenue.

More about the exhibition tour

Rembrandt in Print has been curated by An Van Camp, Christopher Brown Assistant Keeper of Northern European Art at the Ashmolean Museum. An is currently working with the Museum De Lakenhal (Leiden, The Netherlands) on a major research project focusing on Rembrandt as a young artist which will result in an international loan exhibition in 2020. Rembrandt in Print is a precursor to this major exhibition and has also been organised to coincide with 2019's 'Year of Rembrandt' marking 350 years since the artist's death in 1669. This touring exhibition begins at the Lady Lever Art Gallery in the Wirral where the exhibition will be on display from 1 June – 15 September. The tour continues to the Holburne Museum in Bath from 04 October – 05 January 2020 before moving onto the North Hertfordshire Museum, Hitchin from 18 January – 19 April 2020. Finally, the exhibition tour will finish at the Crawford Art Gallery, Cork from 22 May – 23 August 2020.

Opening Hours

Monday–Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm

Late opening Thursdays until 8.00pm

Sundays and Bank Holidays Gallery: 11am - 4pm



Exhibition Organised by the Ashmolean Museum,
University of Oxford™



KLM: Exhibition and associated programmes made possible with the support of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council



Irish Examiner



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media