

PRESS RELEASE

BECOMING REMBRANDT: CREATIVITY AND COMPETITION IN AMSTERDAM, CA. 1630–1655

6 OCTOBER 2021 TO 30 JANUARY 2022

Exhibition Building

Press preview: 5 October 2021, 11:00 am

Frankfurt am Main, 8 September 2020. It is hard to imagine today, but when the young painter Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn (1606–1669) moved from Leiden to Amsterdam in 1631, he was just one of many artists who wanted to make a name for himself in the flourishing metropolis of art, culture and commerce. He succeeded in doing so within just a few short years: Rembrandt gained extensive acclaim, trained dozens of aspiring artists, and engaged in the art trade, including the active distribution of his own paintings and prints. At the same time, his style changed radically – from the small, precisely executed paintings of his early days in Leiden to the large, dramatically lit narrative canvases of the Amsterdam period.

In a major exhibition, in conjunction with the National Gallery of Canada the Städel Museum will, for the first time, address Rembrandt's rise to international fame during his formative years in Amsterdam. The presentation combines the Städel's collection of works by Rembrandt, including *The Blinding of Samson* (1636), with outstanding loans from international collections, such as the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the Gemäldegalerie in Berlin, the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister in Dresden, the National Gallery in London, the Museo del Prado in Madrid, and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. In this exhibition, Rembrandt's art enters into a dialogue with masterpieces by older and younger artists of his time, such as Nicolas Elias Pickenoy and Bartholomeus van der Helst, and with brilliant works by his own former students, such as Govaert Flinck and Ferdinand Bol. Focus will be placed on groups of closely related paintings that shed light on Rembrandt's role and that of his contemporaries in this creative network. Rembrandt's pictorial production, and his impact, were surprisingly broad, encompassing landscapes, genre scenes and still lifes as well as history paintings and portraits. The examination of his competitors influenced his artistic development as well as his entrepreneurial ambitions. In Amsterdam, an exceptional number of talented artists competed for the attention and

**Städelsches Kunstinstitut
und Städtische Galerie**

Dürerstraße 2
60596 Frankfurt am Main
Phone +49(0)69-605098-268
Fax +49(0)69-605098-188
presse@staedelmuseum.de
www.staedelmuseum.de/en

PRESS DOWNLOADS
newsroom.staedelmuseum.de/en

PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Pamela Rohde
Phone +49(0)69-605098-170
rohde@staedelmuseum.de

Jannike Möller
Phone +49(0)69-605098195
moeller@staedelmuseum.de

Franziska von Plocki
Phone +49(0)69-605098-268
plocki@staedelmuseum.de

Susanne Hafner
Phone +49(0)69-605098-212
hafner@staedelmuseum.de

patronage of the wealthy and art-loving middle classes. It was precisely this exciting and stimulating atmosphere that challenged the young artist from Leiden to become the world-famous master that he is to this day: Rembrandt.

The exhibition is organised by the Städel Museum, Frankfurt am Main, and the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa.

Curators: Prof Dr Jochen Sander (Vice Director and Head of the Collection of Dutch, Flemish and German Painting before 1800, Städel Museum) and Prof Dr Stephanie Dickey (Guest Curator at the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa)

With support from: ING AG, Dagmar-Westberg-Stiftung