

# The Rembrandt Database Newsletter #2, October 2015

research resource on Rembrandt paintings

New documentation from  
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Gemäldegalerie Berlin • Paint  
sample documentation Karin Groen  
• The Rembrandt Database presents:  
team member Wietske Donkersloot



**Now online: 10,016 files, 176  
paintings, 25 collections**

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



Rembrandt, *The wedding of Samson*, 1638,  
Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden-  
Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister, Dresden, inv. 1560

## Your documentation in The Rembrandt Database? Join us!

Would you like to share your documentation along with partners like the Rijksmuseum The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Gemäldegalerie Berlin? Contact us, and we will inform you about the possibilities and guide you through the process from the inventory and selection of documentation to the presentation on the website.

### Why contribute?

Share your own documentation with the academic and museum community to make it wider known, to make it available for further research, to connect it with other studies on comparable paintings, to educate young scholars, and to safeguard it for the future.

### Who can contribute?

Museums as well as individual researchers and private collections are invited to share their documentation in the Rembrandt Database. We also invite our current contributors to continue contributing (new) technical documentation. Your contribution will further complement the material in the database and enable new forms of scholarship. If you are interested please contact [us](#).

## Recently added: Dresden paintings

Recently the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden – Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister presented three Rembrandt paintings in the database: *Self portrait with a bittern*, *The wedding of Samson* and *Portrait of a man*. All three paintings were part of the Elector's Gemäldegalerie in Dresden already in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Most of the major works in the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister were assembled within little more than half a century. The systematic collecting of paintings began during the reigns of August the Strong (1670 – 1733) and his son August III (1696 – 1763). His agents purchased 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century paintings, including works by Rembrandt.

The collaboration with the Dresden Gemäldegalerie will continue in order to present more Rembrandt paintings in The Rembrandt Database.



Follow The Rembrandt Database on [LinkedIn](#) for the latest news on the project and related topics.

## Rembrandt in change of perspective : an interdisciplinary approach

Dr. Katja Kleinert, Claudia Laurenze-Landsberg (*Gemäldegalerie, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin*)

The Gemäldegalerie presides over one of the most comprehensive collections of Rembrandt paintings in the world. These paintings are the subject of a long-term interdisciplinary research project, made possible by the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin.

The aim of this research project is to conduct for the first time in-depth analysis by comparing data from technical research (in particular neutron-activation autoradiography) with art-historical findings. The core of these examinations consists of an integrated study of provenance, exhibition history and restoration history combined with new analyses of the painting techniques. By linking material-technical and art-historical facets, the findings can be embedded in their original iconographic and cultural-historical context. The project will focus on new insights relating to the genesis of the paintings, the development of subjects and motifs, as well as Rembrandt's artistic and painterly technique. By combining technical and art-historical research within an interdisciplinary team the project will achieve innovative results that are beyond previous research.

All relevant information covered in the project will subsequently be made accessible to the public as part of the online Rembrandt Database. The database offers the documentation in the form of high quality digital files with extensive associated metadata, which will be useful for new research.



Autoradiograph 2 out of 5 of *Susanna and the elders*, c. 1635-1647, Gemäldegalerie, (Staatliche Museen zu Berlin), inv. 828 E

### Paint sample documentation Karin Groen

In February we published part of the Rembrandt paint sample documentation that was generated by Karin Groen in the course of three decades, kept at the RCE (Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands) in Amsterdam/Amersfoort. The paint samples were polished (where necessary) and re-photographed, and textual documentation was digitized to make them accessible online. Currently 139 samples and accompanying documentation from 33 paintings can be studied online.

We will continue our collaboration with the RCE. We aim to publish another 400 paint samples and associated documentation for 92 paintings before the end of 2017.

### Presenting Wietske Donkersloot



Wietske has been working on the Rembrandt Database as project associate since the start of the pilot in early 2008. She succeeded Edwin Buijsen as Project Manager in 2009 and served in that capacity until May 2015, when Sytske Weidema took over.

Wietske remains involved with the project as manager of IT affairs. Her main assignment is to coordinate the development of a new user interface, which will offer more speed and flexibility and many new features.

Wietske was trained as a historian and art historian at Leiden University. IT and management entered her professional life through successive jobs at the Dutch Museums Association, the Rijksmuseum, and CODART. She joined the RKD in 2008 to work on The Rembrandt Database, to coordinate the Technical Documentation department (2009-2013), and to manage the large-scale Mondrian Edition Project (since 2014).

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The Rembrandt Database is generously funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and coordinated by the RKD – Netherlands Institute for Art History