

The Rembrandt Database Newsletter #5, September 2016

research resource on Rembrandt paintings

Rembrandt Research Project archive

- New partnership: The Sinebrychoff Art Museum
- Exhibition Musée Jacquemart André
- Documentation of Mauritshuis' Saul and David
- Collaboration Residenzgalerie Salzburg
- The Rembrandt Database presents: project associate Nadja



Now online: 11,113 files, 205 paintings, 25 collections

Rembrandt (or follower), Reading monk, was dated 1661, Sinebrychoff Art Museum, Helsinki, inv. no. A II 1410



New partnership: Sinebrychoff Art Museum in Helsinki

We are happy to announce that the Sinebrychoff Art Museum, Finnish National Gallery in Helsinki, has agreed to collaborate on The Rembrandt Database. One of the museum's highlights is the Rembrandt painting *Reading monk*.

The provenance of the painting is known from the 1750s, when it belonged to the collections of Comte de Vence in Paris. The painting was put up for sale in 1919 by the London Thomas Agnew & Sons art gallery, where Hjalmar Linder bought the painting and donated it to the Finnish Art Society the year after.

Currently the museum is examining the painting. The documentation emerging from the treatment will be made accessible in The Rembrandt Database.

Rembrandt Research Project archive

The Rembrandt Research Project (RRP), founded in 1968, was only recently brought to a conclusion with the publication of the sixth volume of *A Corpus of Rembrandt Paintings* in 2015.

The archive of this vast project is housed in the RKD (Netherlands Institute for Art History). An unique collection of X-radiographs of Rembrandt's paintings are a substantial and important part of the RRP-archive.

An inventory of this material is currently being made and we aim to complete the digitization of these X-radiographs by the end of this year.

Upcoming exhibition: Musée Jacquemart-André

In September the Musée Jacquemart-André in Paris will open an exhibition about Rembrandt. The exhibition is divided into three parts, which are dedicated to Rembrandt's Leyden period of Rembrandt, his prosperous years in Amsterdam and the period between 1652-1669.

Rembrandt intime will be on view at Musée Jacquemart-André from September 16th, 2016 to January 23rd, 2017.

Documentation of Mauritshuis' *Saul and David* now also shared in the Rembrandt Database

Susan Smelt (Contract paintings conservator, Mauritshuis, The Hague)

In June 2015, the restoration of *Saul and David* from the Mauritshuis collection was completed – the culmination of an eight-year process. After restoration the painting is now fully reattributed to Rembrandt. The painting, which had not been on view since 2007, was presented to the public again in the 2015 exhibition *Rembrandt? The case of Saul and David*. It focused on the art-historical and technical research as well as the restoration techniques

In January 2016, the Mauritshuis (sponsored by the Johan Maurits Compagnie) took the opportunity to collect all of the collaborative research and prepare the *Saul and David* documentation for inclusion in the Rembrandt Database. Now, all the Rembrandt paintings from the Mauritshuis collection are included in the database, and further documentation will be added gradually.

Many types of documentation will eventually be shared in the database, from old photographs and archival documents to new imaging techniques and material technical research. We are working out how best to accommodate new research methods like the “curtain viewer”, and ongoing research, into the existing framework of the database. It is the intention of the Mauritshuis to present the scientific research of this intriguing painting to the scholarly public in a future publication.

Rembrandt van Rijn, *Saul and David*, c. 1651-1654 and c. 1655-1658, oil on canvas, 130 x 164,5 cm. After varnish removal and removal of overpaint on the inserts. Photo taken in Ultraviolet radiation. The pink fluorescence of the red lake in the robe of Saul is nicely visible.
Photo by Margareta Svensson



Collaboration Residenzgalerie Salzburg

Currently the Residenzgalerie in Salzburg is doing art-historical and scientific research on the Rembrandt painting *Old woman praying* (inv. no. 549). This exceptional work is one of Rembrandt's three paintings on copper, with a ground of gold leaf. The other two are held at the Mauritshuis in The Hague (accessible on our website) and the Nationalmuseum in Stockholm.

The Residenzgalerie has agreed to share the documentation generated during their research on the Rembrandt Database website.

Presenting Nadja Garthoff



Nadja Garthoff (1988) started working on The Rembrandt Database in May 2013. She started as a trainee and was later appointed as project associate. She is responsible for the entry of art-historical data and technical documentation. For the project she was outsourced to the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam in 2014-2015, to inventory their Rembrandt documentation, prepare documents for digitization and provide metadata. Currently she is working on-site at the Cultural Heritage Agency of The Netherlands (RCE) in Amsterdam, photographing paint samples of Rembrandt paintings, to be added to the database.

Nadja was trained as an art historian at VU University Amsterdam. In 2008 she was an intern at the RKD, working on reproduction prints after paintings by Rembrandt. During her Museum Curator Master's degree program she worked for a year as curator in training at the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen in Rotterdam.

[The Rembrandt Database](#) | [contact us](#) | [join us](#) | [subscribe](#) | [unsubscribe](#) | [more news](#)



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