

Rembrandt van Rijn

What Did Rembrandt Create?

Rembrandt van Rijn was a famous Dutch painter and printmaker.

He is best known for:

- Portraits that capture emotions and personality
- Dramatic scenes from the Bible and mythology
- Detailed self-portraits throughout his life
- Amazing use of light and shadow (called *chiaroscuro*)
- Etchings and drawings with fine details and bold lines



Childhood

- Born in 1606 in Leiden, Netherlands
- He was the ninth of ten children in a working-class family
- His father was a miller (someone who works at a mill)
- As a boy, he loved drawing and observing people closely
- He was known for being quiet and thoughtful as a child
- His parents supported his interest in art from a young age

Education

- Attended Latin School, where he learned reading, writing, and classical studies
- At age 14, he went to the University of Leiden but didn't stay long—he preferred painting
- Trained as an artist under Jacob van Swanenburgh, a local painter
- Later studied in Amsterdam with the master painter Pieter Lastman, who taught him storytelling in pictures
- Learned how to paint scenes with strong emotions and dramatic lighting

Career

- Opened his own art studio in Leiden when he was in his early twenties
- Moved to Amsterdam, where he became one of the city's most popular portrait painters
- Taught many young artists, some of whom became famous themselves
- Faced personal tragedy—his wife and children died young
- Struggled with money later in life, but never gave up on painting
- Today, Rembrandt is considered one of the greatest artists in history

Quotes from Rembrandt

“Practice what you know, and it will help to make clear what now you do not know.”

“Painting is the grandchild of nature. It is related to God.”

“A painting is complete when it has the shadows of a god.”

Art



The Night Watch

Bizarrely it was always thought that this painting was a night scene, but after some cleaning in the 1970's it was discovered to be a day scene!



The prodigal son

Many of Rembrandt's works of art depict a scene from the bible.