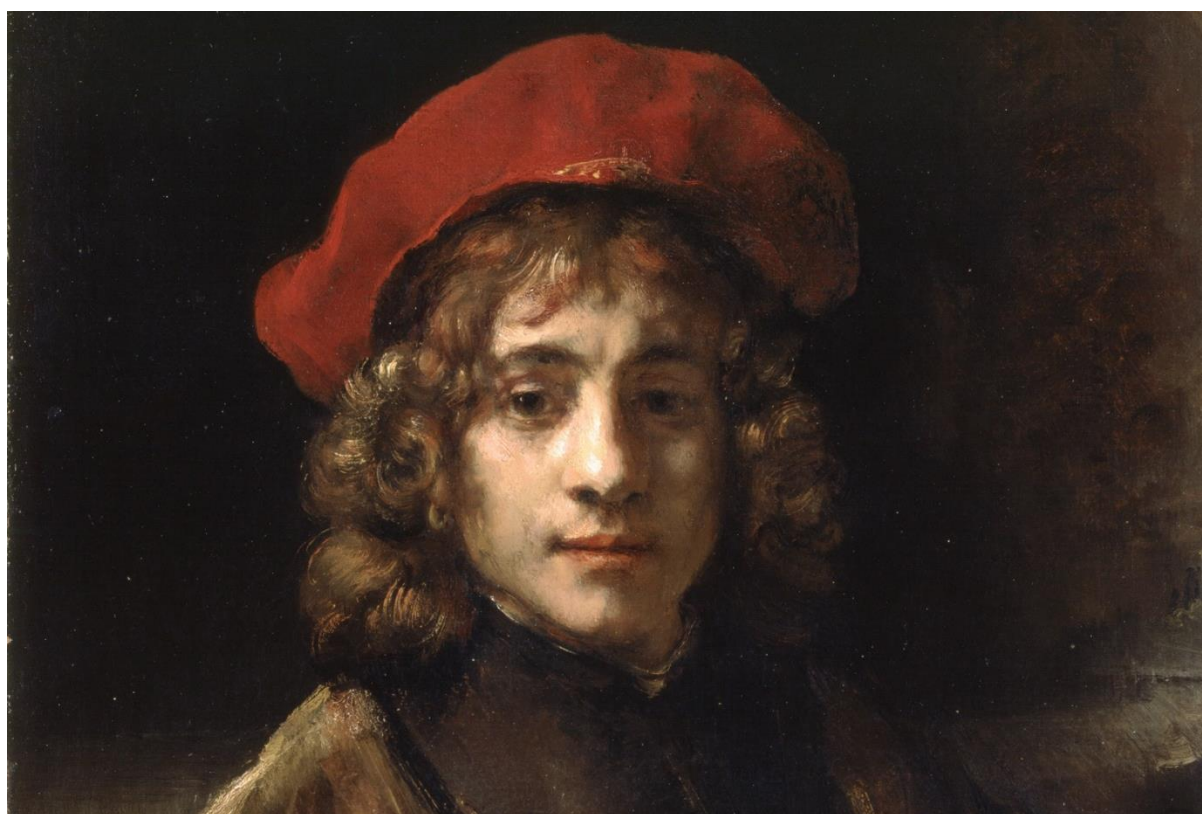


Introducing... Rembrandt and His Circle

Dates	Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 August 2021
Times	18.00-20.00
Location	Zoom Webinar
Tutor	Karly Allen
Level	All Levels



Rembrandt, *Titus, the Artist's Son*, around 1657 (detail)

Course Description

Why is Rembrandt considered the greatest of the Dutch Masters? Dutch painting of the 17th century is a particular strength of the Wallace Collection, and Rembrandt's celebrated portrait of his son Titus is one of the Collection's best-loved pictures. The quality and breadth of Dutch paintings in the Collection offers the rewarding opportunity to study Rembrandt's art, and its impact and significance, through close observation of his works alongside those of his students and collaborators.

In this course, you'll gain an understanding of the development of Rembrandt's style and subjects. We'll consider his early years in Leiden to the height of his success in Amsterdam, and his late years of broadening brushwork and warmth of tone. Rembrandt led a busy and productive workshop, and we'll also meet several of the artists who learned from him - from Gerrit Dou, the first apprentice to enter Rembrandt's studio, to his last pupil, Aert de Gelder.

Session One: Staging Stories – History Painting and Character Studies

Rembrandt's passion was for depicting the great dramas of historical and biblical stories and he set out to become a history painter. His painting of *The Good Samaritan* is a significant example of his experimental, multi-figure compositions. Rembrandt trained apprentices and employed assistants to paint variants of his designs – fancifully dressed character heads, or 'tronies', were especially popular and helped to make Rembrandt's name. Many pupils went on to establish successful careers; in this session we'll focus on paintings by two of his most talented students: Govaert Flinck and Ferdinand Bol.

Rembrandt's work, across diverse subjects, was underpinned by the art of drawing. In this session we'll also explore his works on paper, including his innovative approach to printmaking. To get closer to Rembrandt's vision, we'll consider artworks by the artists he admired and collected, including Adriaen Brouwer, Peter Paul Rubens and Flemish painting, and painters of the Italian Renaissance.

Session Two: For Love and Money – Portraits and Self-Portraits

Rembrandt's skills as a portrait painter were in high demand in Amsterdam, where he found success and prosperity through portraiture commissions. He was able to adapt his style to suit the client, either working in a conventional mode or with greater scope for experimentation. In our second session, we'll consider the late portrait of Titus, Rembrandt's son and pupil, which will allow us to get closer to the artist's brushwork and palette in the final years of his life.

Rembrandt is famous for having depicted his own image more than any artist before him. Setting the Collection's *Self Portrait* in context, we'll explore his lifelong commitment to self-portraiture, whether as a tool for the study of facial expression, as confident self-promotion, or quiet reflection. Throughout this course, you'll be guided to look closely at the Collection's paintings in order to investigate Rembrandt's techniques and materials, and develop a sense of personal response and connection to the work of this outstanding artist.

Course Tutor

Karly Allen has over 20 years' experience as a lecturer in art history and has taught widely for British collections and cultural organisations including the National Gallery, Courtauld Gallery, V&A, National Portrait Gallery, the Art Fund and Christie's Education.

Karly complements her teaching with the practice of drawing as a tool for looking, and with her training in mindfulness for close observation. Having graduated from the Ruskin School of Art (University of Oxford), Karly gained a Master's degree from SOAS (University of London). Her extensive experience as producer of museum learning programmes includes her former role as Education Manager for the Royal Collection at Buckingham Palace.

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

None required. This course is designed as an introduction to the subject.

Joining Information and Format

This course will be taught through Zoom Webinar. For more information, including instructions on how to download and use the system, please visit www.zoom.us/support.

Each course session duration is 120 minutes, including a five-minute break and time for Q&A with the tutor.

Tickets are for both dates. Ticket holders will be emailed the Zoom link, Webinar ID and Passcode 24 hours in advance of the first course session, which should be retained for accessing both sessions of the course.

Course Recording

This course will be recorded. Within 48 hours of each course session, ticket holders will be emailed a link to view the recording, which will be available for one week only.
