

# NORTON MUSEUM OF ART

1450 S. Dixie Highway  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

norton.org

## Norton Museum of Art to Host *Art and Life in Rembrandt's Time: Masterpieces from The Leiden Collection* Opening on October 25, 2025

The first major presentation of **The Leiden Collection** in the United States, featuring 17th-century Dutch paintings by Rembrandt van Rijn, Frans Hals, and Jan Steen, as well as the only works in private hands by Johannes Vermeer and Carel Fabritius



LEFT: Rembrandt van Rijn (Dutch, 1606 – 1669), *Self-Portrait with Shaded Eyes*, 1634  
Oil on panel, 28 x 22 1/16 in., The Leiden Collection, New York

RIGHT: Johannes Vermeer (Dutch, 1632 – 1675), *Young Woman Seated at a Virginal*, circa 1670 – 1675  
Oil on canvas, 10 1/16 x 7 15/16 in., The Leiden Collection, New York

**WEST PALM BEACH, FL (April 3, 2025)** — The Norton Museum of Art announces the exhibition *Art and Life in Rembrandt's Time: Masterpieces from The Leiden Collection*, a presentation of more than 70 works by 27 artists from The Leiden Collection — one of the world's most important private collections of 17th-century Dutch art. On view from October 25, 2025, through April 5, 2026, it will be the largest show of privately held Dutch 17th-century paintings ever organized in the United States.

Envisioned to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the Dutch founding of New Amsterdam on the island of present-day Manhattan, the exhibition at the Norton will draw from The Leiden Collection's unique strength, namely the depiction of humanity in all its facets — from portraits and character studies to genre scenes and historical subjects. It will also offer a rare opportunity to contemplate exceptional works spanning the full career arc of the groundbreaking Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn. With 17 of Rembrandt's paintings on display throughout the galleries, the exhibition will reveal the renowned artist's singular ability to capture human

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expression and emotion, as well as fascinating evolutions in both his style and technique.

Organized thematically, *Art and Life in Rembrandt's Time* will invite visitors to explore the breadth of the painters' skill and the timeless resonance of their works, as well as to learn more about the day-to-day activities of citizens from that period. Through the prism of the 17th-century Netherlands and its leading artists, the exhibition will shed light on a crucial era of innovation in the history of art. Indeed, the creative breakthroughs and transformative impact of Rembrandt and his peers can still be felt today, having altered the trajectory of art from Impressionism and Expressionism, all the way through to modern and contemporary movements.

“One of the most remarkable facts about Rembrandt and his circle is that their artworks continue to connect with audiences, hundreds of years after they were painted,” said Elizabeth Nogrady, Curator of The Leiden Collection. “These artists had an uncanny ability to tap into the continuity of human experience, which makes them continually relevant — even in very different times.”

The exhibition reflects The Leiden Collection's mission of building bridges through art and will follow its blockbuster shows at some of the most prestigious national museums in the world including the Louvre, the Pushkin and Hermitage museums, the National Museum of China, and Louvre Abu Dhabi.

“An exhibition like *Art and Life in Rembrandt's Time* has never been seen before in our region. Viewers will be enthralled not only by the artistry of Rembrandt, but also the depth of talent of other 17th-century Dutch artists,” said Ghislain d’Humières, Kenneth C. Griffin Director and CEO of the Norton Museum of Art. “It is an honor to host this impressive exhibition at the Norton.”

Of considerable prominence in the exhibition will be Rembrandt's magisterial *Minerva in Her Study*, 1635, the most important of Rembrandt's history paintings in a private collection; the master's exquisite oval *Young Girl in a Gold-Trimmed Cloak*, 1632; and his *Self-Portrait with Shaded Eyes*, 1634, which presents a young Rembrandt staring directly at the viewer. Special highlights include Vermeer's *Young Woman Seated at a Virginal*, circa 1670 – 1675 — the sole example of the artist's work in private hands, which was featured in the Rijksmuseum's transcendent show of 2023, *Vermeer* — and *Hagar and the Angel*, circa 1645, the only privately held painting remaining of Carel Fabritius — Rembrandt's greatest pupil and the inspiration for Donna Tartt's 2013 acclaimed novel *The Goldfinch*. The exhibition will also showcase works by other Amsterdam artists intimately connected to Rembrandt, including his influential teacher, Pieter Lastman, and talented students such as Ferdinand Bol, Govaert Flinck, and Arent de Gelder.

Additional treasures in the exhibition include formal and fantastical portraits, scenes of markets, music-making, biblical stories, labor, play, and other dynamic subjects by various artists from the Dutch city of Leiden. Prominent works include Jan Lievens' *Boy in a Cape and Turban*, circa 1631, depicting a youth wearing a luminous, fanciful costume, and his ravishing *Self-Portrait*, circa 1629 – 1630; Gabriel Metsu's monumental *Woman Selling Game from a Stall*, circa 1653 – 1654; Frans van Mieris' profoundly evocative *Traveler at Rest*, circa 1657, capturing a confident young man

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relaxing on the roadside; and magnificent works by Jan Steen including his joyful *Self-Portrait with a Lute*, circa 1664 and most solemn *Prayer Before the Meal*, 1660, of a pious family breaking bread. Also represented in the show will be painters who worked in other Dutch artistic centers, among them Hendrick ter Brugghen in Utrecht, Frans Hals in Haarlem, and Gerard ter Borch in Zwolle.

The Leiden Collection, assembled over the past two decades by Thomas S. Kaplan and his wife, Daphne Recanati Kaplan, comprises more than 220 paintings and drawings by many of the finest Dutch 17th-century artists. Named after Rembrandt van Rijn's native city, The Leiden Collection illuminates the personalities and themes that shaped Dutch art over five generations.

“Since the day Daphne and I founded The Leiden Collection, we conceived of it as a lending library for some of the world’s most consequential artists,” said Thomas Kaplan. “After nearly 15 years of anonymous lending to over 80 museums, armed with a message of Rembrandt as *‘The Universal Artist,’* the Collection has spent the better part of the past decade traveling the world. We are particularly thrilled to be the first to share Rembrandt and Vermeer with my home state of Florida, where I spent a truly wonderful part of my youth. We hope visitors will be as moved as we are by the enduring power of Rembrandt, his students, and his peers.”

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated, 150-page catalogue with detailed entries on each painting and an exploration of Dutch life in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

*Art and Life in Rembrandt’s Time: Masterpieces from The Leiden Collection* was jointly organized by The Leiden Collection, New York, and the Norton Museum of Art. Curated by Elizabeth Nogrady, Curator, The Leiden Collection; Robert Evren, Consulting Curator for European Art, and J. Rachel Gustafson, Chief Curatorial Operations & Research Officer, the Norton Museum of Art.

## **ABOUT THE NORTON MUSEUM OF ART**

The Norton Museum of Art, Florida’s largest art museum, is home to a distinguished collection of art, with holdings in American, European, Contemporary and Asian Art, and Photography.

Founded in 1941 by Ralph Hubbard Norton and his wife, Elizabeth Calhoun Norton, the Museum collects, preserves, and exhibits art, and engages visitors through exhibitions, events and live entertainment featuring local musicians and performance artists. Public programming is year-round and designed to inspire conversations and build community through the power of art. The Museum is accessible to all.

The Museum’s expansion and renovation was led by London-based architecture firm Foster + Partners, adding a building and more than 12,000 square feet of new gallery space, an educational center, a store and restaurant, a sculpture garden, and a Great Hall, serving as the Museum’s “living room.” The campus is home to renovated, Museum-owned, 1920s-era cottages that house artists-in-residence.

Visit the Museum’s website at [Norton.org](http://Norton.org) or connect on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

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## ABOUT THE LEIDEN COLLECTION

The Leiden Collection, founded in 2003 by Franco-American collector Dr. Thomas S. Kaplan and his wife, Daphne Recanati Kaplan, comprises some 220 paintings and drawings and represents one of the largest and most important assemblages of 17th-century Dutch paintings in private hands. The Collection is named after Rembrandt's native city in honor of the artist's transcendence and focuses on the works of Rembrandt and his followers, illuminating the personalities and themes that shaped the time period over five generations. The Collection is the most comprehensive representation of the Leiden artists known as *fijnschilders* ("fine manner painters"), who concentrated on painting portraits, genre scenes, and history paintings. To learn more, please visit [theleidencollection.com](http://theleidencollection.com) — home to an extensive online catalogue and scholarly resource that features detailed entries on each painting, biographies of artists, and essays by leading scholars.

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