

RIJKS AND VAN GOGH MUSEUMS



The Rijks Museum building is an exact duplicate of the Central Train Station



Inside the center of the building is an information center.



Rembrandt paintings are on the second floor.



One of Rembrandt's masterpieces is "Nightwatch"

The masterpiece “Nightwatch”



Night Watch

Rembrandt's masterpiece, the *Night Watch*, is a group portrait of a company of Amsterdam 'militiamen', the city's civic guard. Rembrandt made the painting in 1642 for their guild headquarters, the Kloveniersdoelen. There it came to hang in the large assembly room, together with six other group portraits.

Standing in the foreground are Captain Frans Banninck Cocq and Lieutenant Willem van Ruytenburch. The captain, in black, is giving an order. That Rembrandt depicted the militiamen in action is quite exceptional: until then, the sitters in such group portraits were shown either standing or sitting stiffly next to one another.

Rembrandt used light to emphasize important details, such as the captain's hand gesture and the girl in the pale dress. She is probably the civic guard's mascot and is one of the figures Rembrandt added to animate the composition. The drummer at the right and the boy running at the left were added for similar reasons.

The nickname *Night Watch* originated much later, when the painting was thought to represent a nocturnal scene.



This etching is 4.25X 3.25 inches. It is an amazing work of art

Joseph Telling his Dreams
Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn (1606–1669)
etching, 1638

Rembrandt translated the story of Joseph that he had depicted in a preparatory oil sketch into this small etching. Joseph's brothers are present, even if one is visible only by his fingers on the table at far right. He grouped them differently than in the painting. Only the old man at left corresponds exactly with his earlier design.



The back of the Rijks Museum



The back of the Rijks Museum





Above: The path to the Van Gogh Museum

Below: The Van Gogh Museum





The museum contains most of Van Gogh's paintings plus paintings from artists that influenced him

This is the last self-portrait that Van Gogh painted in Paris, where he lived from 1886 to the beginning of 1888. It is signed and dated 'Vincent 88'. He is equipped with the same painter's tools as in the self-portrait to the left, which dates from the autumn of 1886. He used the small tin trays on his palette for linseed oil and turpentine. The two self-portraits demonstrate the enormous progress that Van Gogh had made in Paris in terms of technique and colour.

Van Gogh's last self-portrait a year before he died



Van Gogh's painting "Sunflowers"

In this painting, Van Gogh worked *ton-sur-ton*: with numerous variations of the colour yellow, shading into ochre and green. For this reason, he himself compared the *Sunflowers* to his *Still life with quinces* from Paris (on view in a previous room). In this work he was even more successful in achieving harmony in colour and in using his brushstrokes to suggest the flowers' shape. As a subtle but powerful complementary contrast, he painted the heart of a single flower purple (now discoloured to light blue).



Panoramic of the three museums located in the complex including the Stedelijk museum



Left: The Stedelijk Museum and to the right the Van Gogh Museum

Below: The Concertgebouw or concert hall

