



Hunterian Art Gallery

Press Release

Rembrandt and the Passion

15 September – 2 December 2012

Hunterian Art Gallery

Admission charge

Rembrandt provides the focus for a major new exhibition at The Hunterian in 2012. 'Rembrandt and the Passion' brings together a number of key loans from such iconic institutions as the British Museum; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the National Gallery, London; Alte Pinakothek, Munich; Glasgow Museums and the National Galleries of Scotland.

Rembrandt's reputation as one of the greatest Old Master painters is undisputed and the exhibition is expected to attract visitors from around the world. 'Rembrandt and the Passion' will give visitors a unique opportunity to see a number of important paintings and drawings not seen before in Scotland. In total the exhibition features some 40 works.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is Rembrandt's *Entombment Sketch*, a beautifully-preserved oil painting from The Hunterian's own collection and one of the greatest Old Master pictures collected by Hunterian founder Dr William Hunter.

The most famous of all Dutch painters, Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669) was a master of portraiture but his greatest desire was to succeed as a history painter. Biblical subjects form a key element of Rembrandt's work, in both painting and etching. His dramatic *Entombment Sketch* is connected with the most important commission of his career - seven paintings of the Passion of Christ produced for Frederik Hendrik, Prince of Orange, between 1632 and 1646.

'Rembrandt and the Passion' tells the story of the *Entombment Sketch* and considers its primary purpose, both in relation to Rembrandt's other oil sketches and also to his other works depicting the Passion of Christ. It considers the influence that earlier and contemporary artists had on the work and will compare the *Sketch* with a number of paintings, drawings and prints by other prominent artists such as Rubens and Lievens.

The exhibition reveals new information about the *Sketch*, including the results of scientific research conducted at the National Gallery, London, using x-ray and pigment analysis. This research has confirmed the dating of the painting as well as the relationship with other oil sketches by Rembrandt, two of which will feature in the exhibition.



Rembrandt van Rijn, *Entombment Sketch*, c.1636 - 1654

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The original function of The Hunterian's painting is debated by art historians and the exhibition will test the notion that it is a study for an etching that Rembrandt planned but never made. A 1656 list of Rembrandt's possessions refers to the painting as hanging in his living room, suggesting that the work had a personal significance.

'Rembrandt and the Passion' opens at the Hunterian Art Gallery, University of Glasgow, in September 2012 and will be accompanied by a special events programme, conference and publication. The exhibition is supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and by KLM/Airfrance.

For further information and images

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Notes to Editors

Exhibition Lenders

Alte Pinakothek, Munich; Brighton Museum and Art Gallery; the British Museum; the Burrell Collection, Glasgow Museums; Courtauld Gallery, London; Edinburgh University Library; Glasgow University Library; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh; National Gallery, London; Teylers Museum, Haarlem.

The Hunterian

Founded in 1807, The Hunterian is Scotland's oldest public museum. Built on William Hunter's founding bequest, the collections include scientific instruments used by James Watt and Joseph Lister; outstanding Roman artefacts from the Antonine Wall; major natural sciences holdings; one of the world's greatest numismatic collections and impressive ethnographic objects from the Pacific Ocean.

The Hunterian is also home to a major art collection ranging from Rembrandt and Chardin to the Scottish Colourists and contemporary art; the world's largest permanent display of the work of James McNeill Whistler; the largest single holding of the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and The Mackintosh House, the reassembled interiors from his Glasgow home.

There are four Hunterian venues on the University of Glasgow campus - the Hunterian Museum, Hunterian Art Gallery, home to The Mackintosh House, the Zoology Museum and the Anatomy Museum.

Hunterian Art Gallery Refurbishment

The Hunterian Art Gallery will undergo major refurbishment in 2012. These significant improvements will give visitors greater access to this world class art collection. All exhibition spaces are currently closed and will re-open in September 2012 with the new exhibition 'Rembrandt and the Passion'. The Mackintosh House and the Art Gallery shop remain open. The Hunterian Museum is also open as usual.

The Hunterian

University of Glasgow
Glasgow G12 8QQ

Open Tuesday - Saturday 10.00am - 5.00pm and Sunday 11.00am - 4.00pm

Closed Mondays

www.glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian



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Rembrandt van Rijn, *Entombment Sketch*, c.1636 - 1654 © The Hunterian, University of Glasgow 2012.



Rembrandt van Rijn, *Self-Portrait*, 1632 © Culture and Sport Glasgow (Museums).



Rembrandt van Rijn, *Sketch after Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper*, c.1635 © The Trustees of the British Museum



Infrared reflectogram of Rembrandt's *Entombment Sketch*. Image courtesy of the National Gallery, London.