

Rembrandt Day 2023



Steven Tabor
2023 (c)

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A Great Historical Theater, in celebration of the painter Rembrandt, was performed on Leiden's streets and public squares during the first weekend in July 2023. The spectacle began at the site of Rembrandt's birthplace, stretched through his oldest parts of the city, across the Rapenburg, and finally ending up in the Pieterswijk. Hundreds of people volunteer for this event in groups that sew clothes, build sets, materials and props, and actors and extras who write, direct and rehearse street-theater plays. Much of the area where the festivities take place were built in the 15th century, while the Pieterskerk was already a chapel in the 12th century. Four hundred years later, Rembrandt van Rijn also walked around in that district to go to his Latin School, to the Pieterskerk, and to pick up his friend Jan Lievens in the Pieterskerkchoorsteeg. Rembrandt also learned the trade of painting from Jacob van Swanenburg a little further on in that old part of the city.

In 2023, the Rembrandt festival featured a re-enactment of the "Night Watch" which is surely Rembrandt's most famous painting. The elders serving on the city guild marched into place outside the Church of the Leiden University and posed somewhat less formally than they would have in "The Shooting Company of Frans Banning Cocq and Willem van Ruytenburch", which is commonly referred to as The Night Watch, the famous 1642 painting by Rembrandt van Rijn. Aside from that, the city was filled with life as it was in Rembrandt's time, with people playing, families debating who their daughters should marry, public trials and executions, markets, jugglers, fortune tellers, the sick, the grim reaper, and strutting in their finest--and having their pictures painted--the city's nobility.





































707 15.00 uur!

















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