Rembrandt in the Galleries: Before and After the Findings of the Rembrandt Research Project

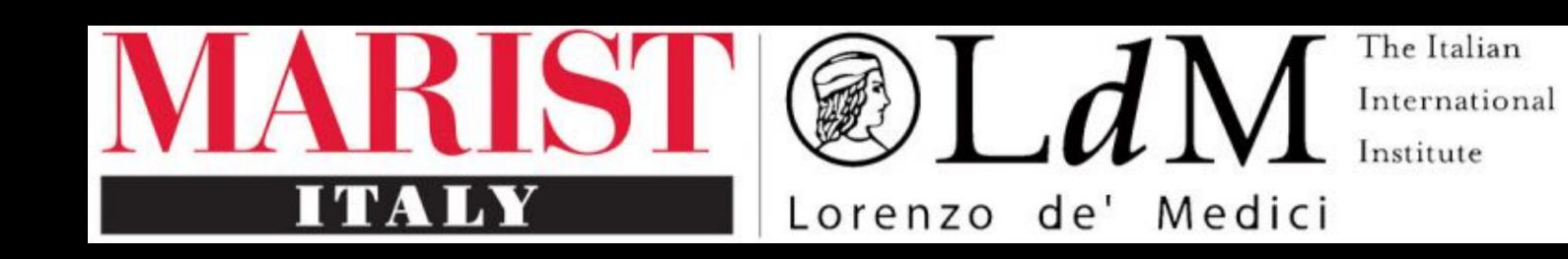
Hannah Schifman, MA candidate

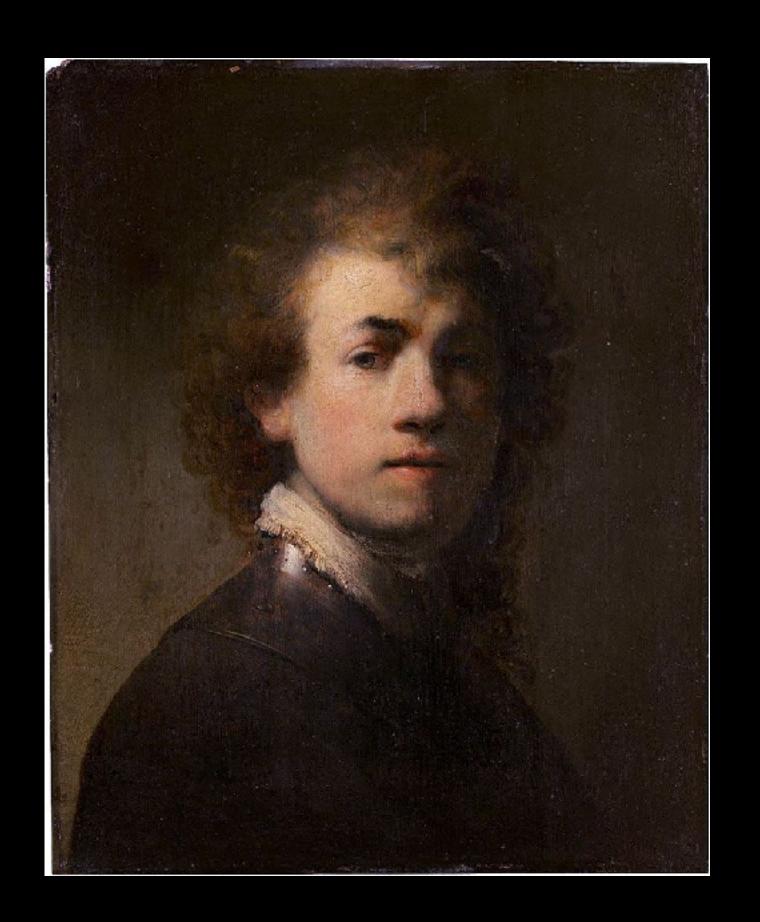
A thesis submitted to the faculty of Marist College and Istituto

Lorenzo de' Medici

Master of Arts in Museum Studies

17 July 2020









Rembrandt vs. Rembrandt-esque





Rembrandt vs. Rembrandt-esque



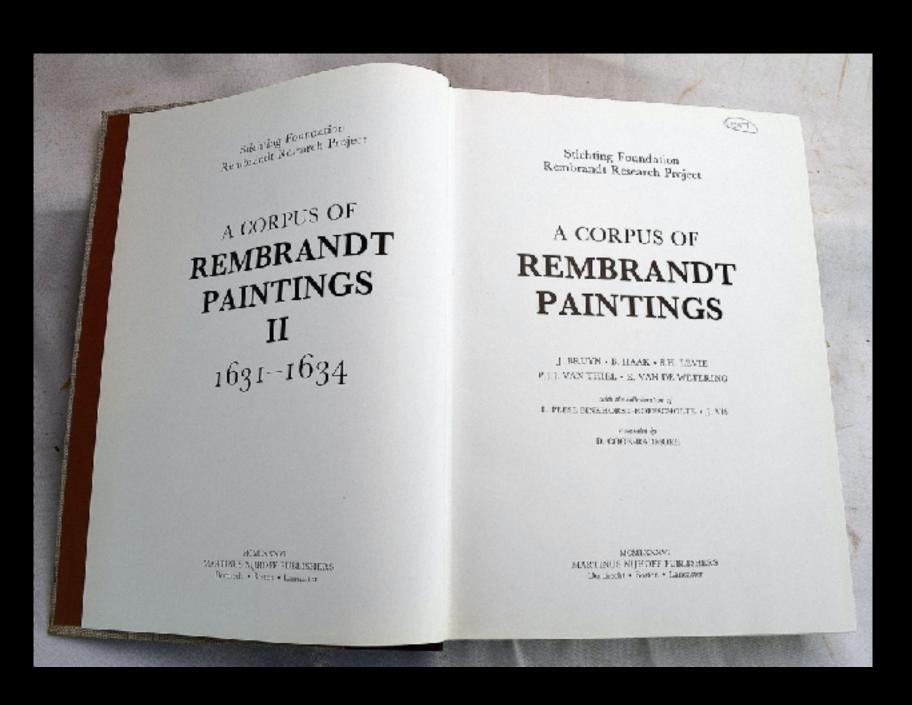
Rembrandt, *Portrait of a Man Holding Gloves*, 1648, oil on panel



Microsoft, *The Next Rembrandt*, 2016, 3D printed

Rembrandt Research Project





Research Question

 How can the attribution findings of the RRP effect the labelling of Rembrandt and Rembrandt-esque paintings in museums?

Objectives and Purpose

- Examine the effect and scope of findings from RRP's Corpus in relation to public-facing information of museums through three case study institutions
- Evaluate transparency and accountability of all research activities between specialists and museums through wall text, object labels, and exhibition catalogues

Methods

Stichting Foundation Rembrandt Research Project

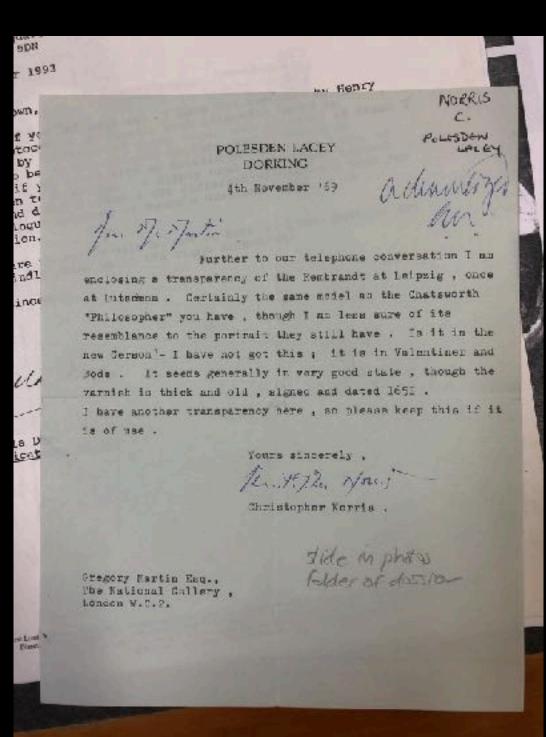
A CORPUS OF
REMBRANDT
PAINTINGS

IV THE SELF-PORTRAITS

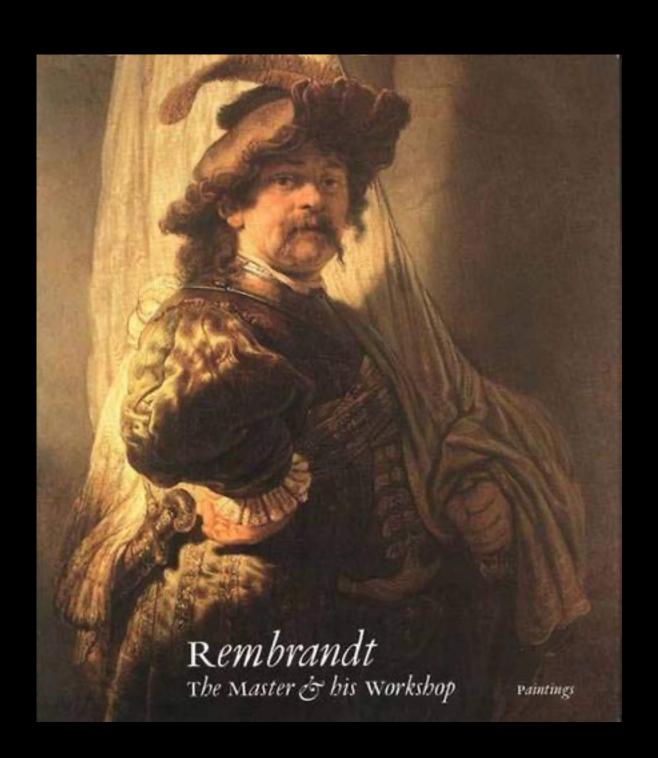
<u>€</u> Springer



Object labels and wall text



Archives



Exhibition catalogues

Corpus, six volumes

Case Studies



Portrait of Frederick Rihel on Horseback

An Old Man in an Armchair

Anna and the Blind Tobit



Lucretia

A Woman Holding a Pink

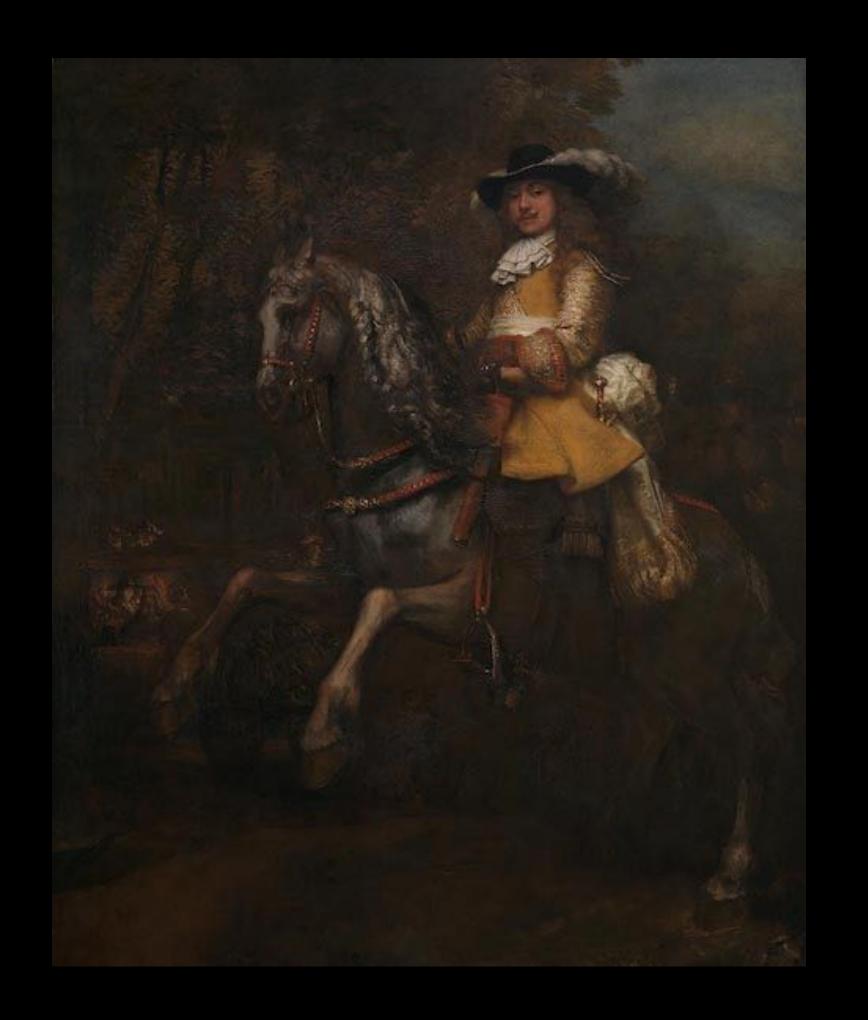
The Mill

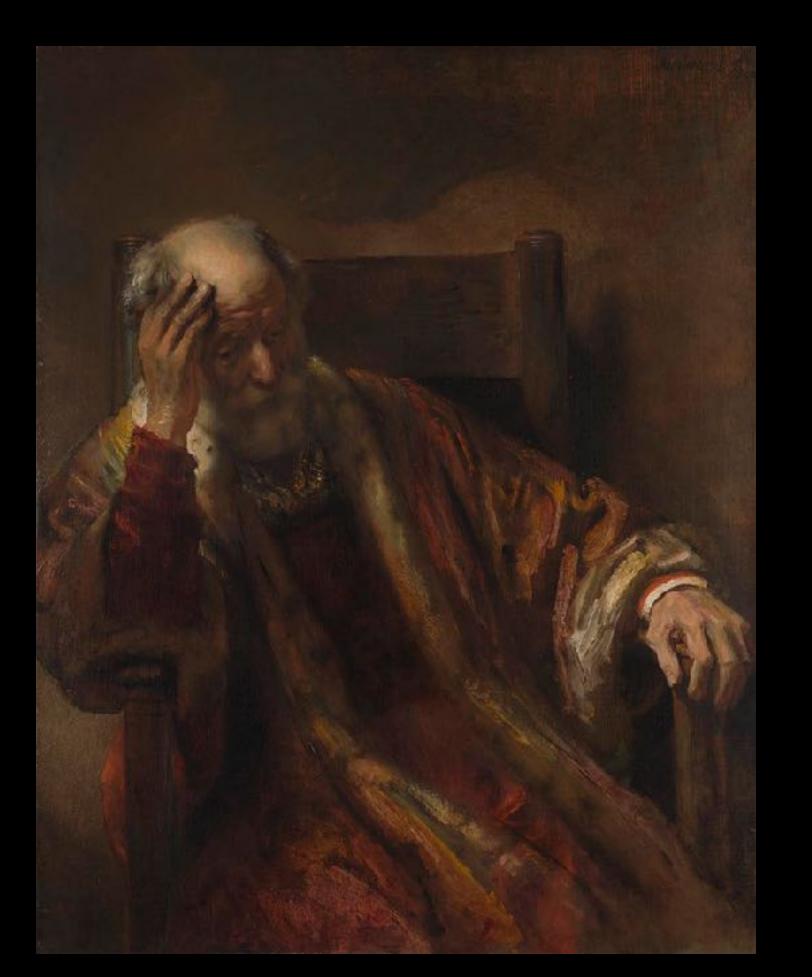
Mauritshuis The Hague, Netherlands

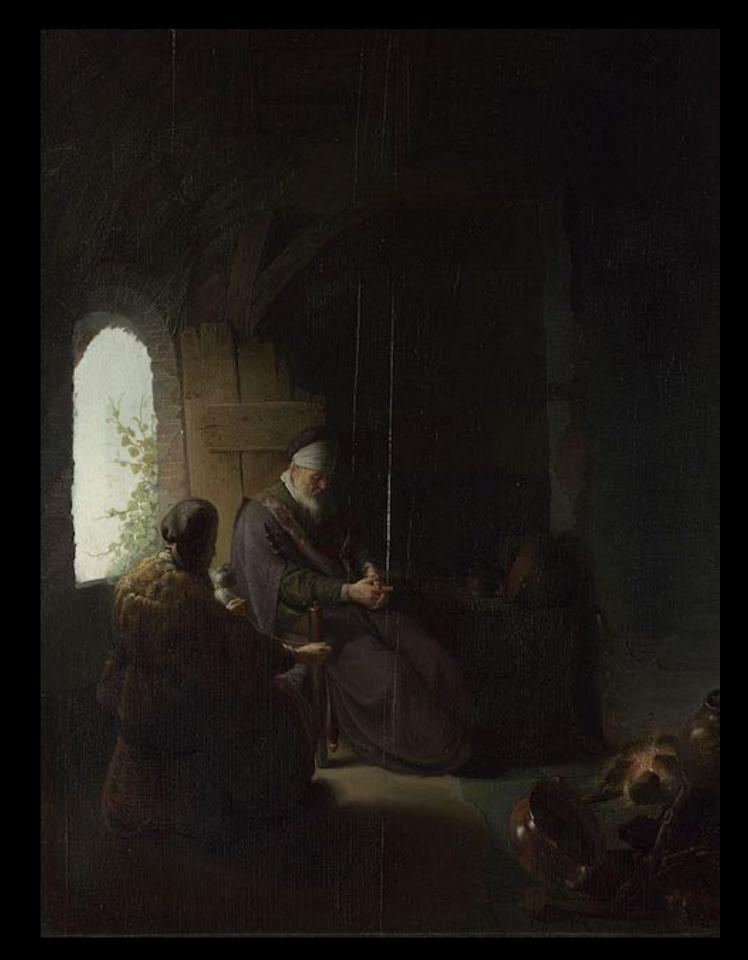
Portrait of Rembrandt (1606-1669) with a Gorget

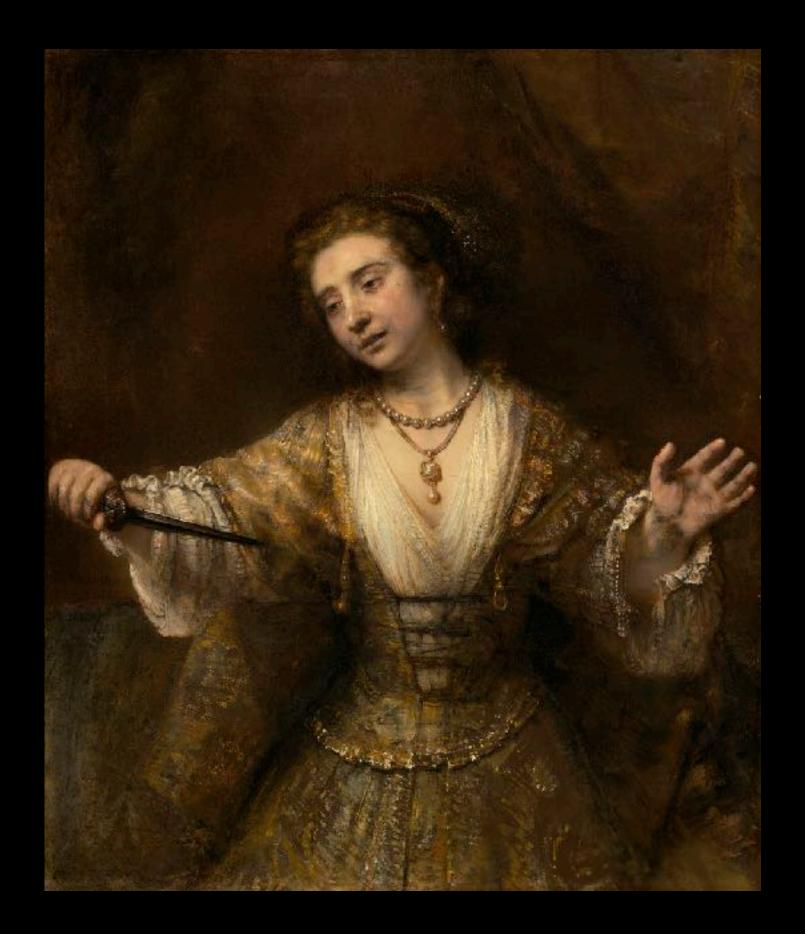
Saul and David

'Tronie' of an Old Man



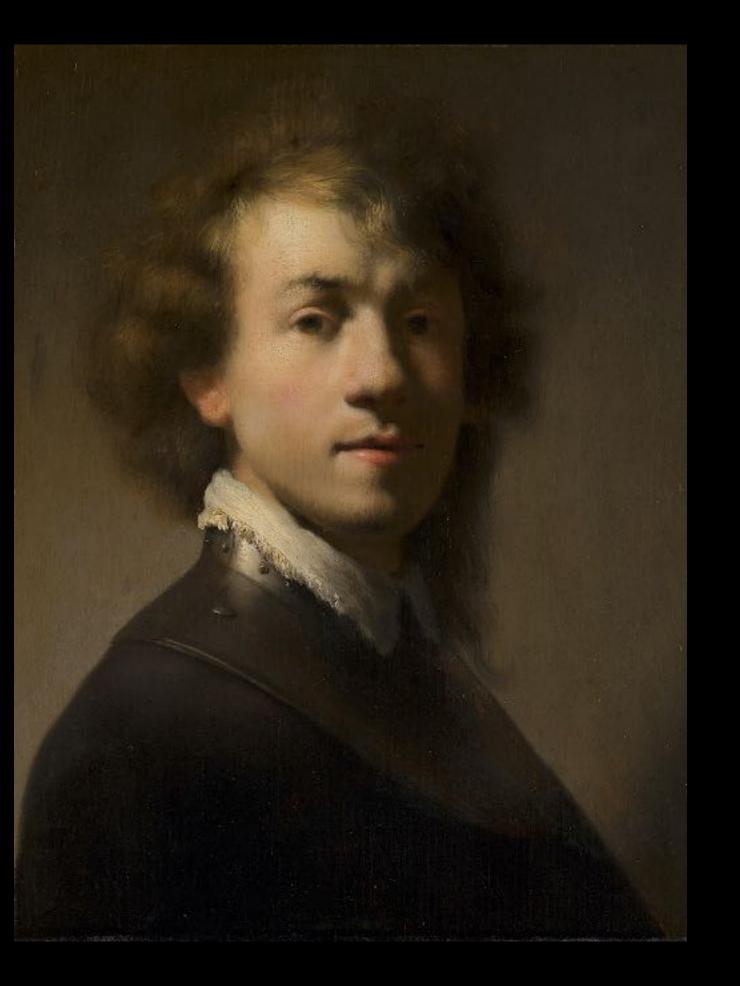


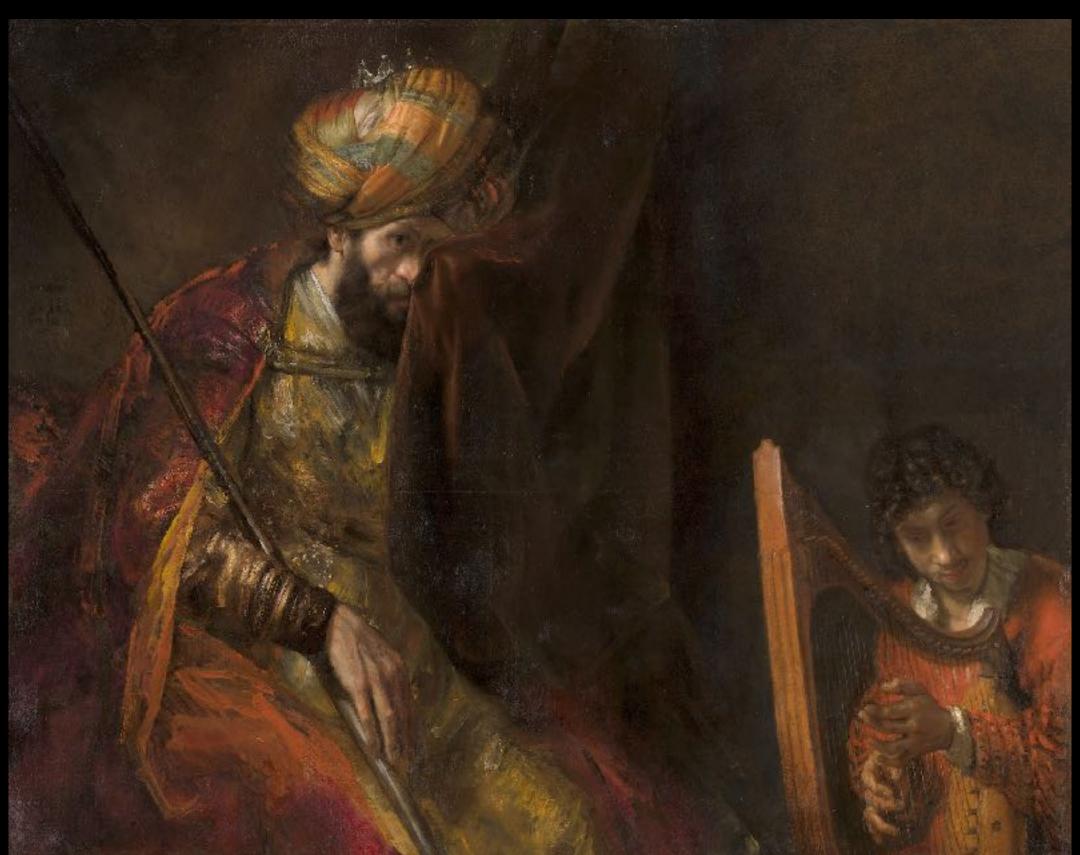














Findings

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- Universal attribution and display inconsistencies
- Object labels and public-facing information are vague and do not reveal the entire narrative

Limitations

- Cultural and/or monetary gains and losses of Rembrandt attribution/dis-attribution
- Excludes private collections

Moving Forward

- Greater transparency and accountability to the public
- Future community collaboration opportunities

"If it resembles a painting that's positively by Rembrandt then it's probably by him."

- Ernst van de Wetering