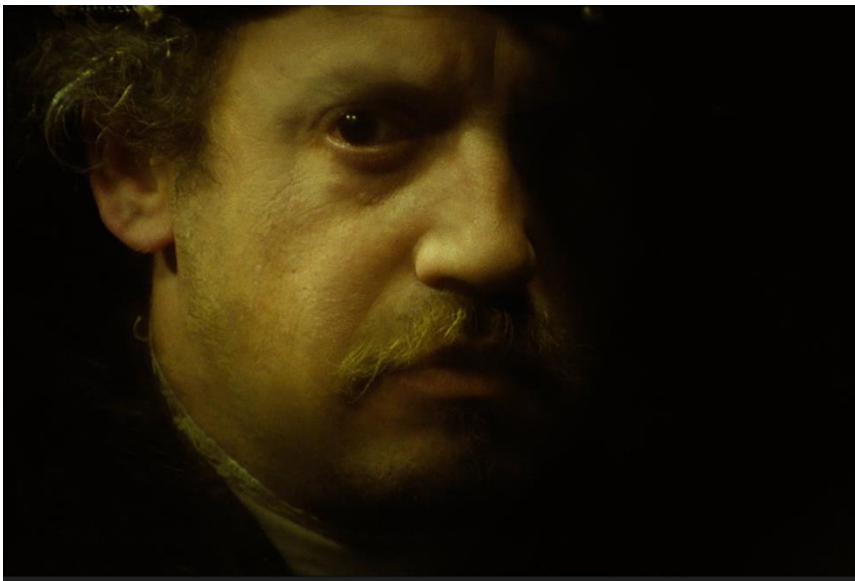




## **Framing Rembrandt**

**The Rembrandt House Museum explores various myths surrounding Rembrandt in the exhibition *Framing Rembrandt***



Fragment from the film *Rembrandt fecit 1669* (1977), Jos Stelling

**Amsterdam, 7 September 2023 | Who is Rembrandt? Everyone has their own idea of the type of man that he was. But are they right? Ever since the 17th century, Rembrandt has been characterized in various ways: as a man of the people, a rebellious artist, a hero, a misunderstood genius, and a saint. Each time, his story was altered; some facts were omitted, while others were twisted, and always with the purpose of propagating a particular type. Rembrandt was *'framed'*.**

In the exhibition *Framing Rembrandt*, the Rembrandt House Museum explores four centuries of perception surrounding Rembrandt through paintings, prints, archive records, and other remarkable objects. Little by little, a number of persistent myths associated with Rembrandt will be debunked, such as the supposed failure of *The Night Watch*. In addition, one of the exhibition halls will be converted into a cinema showing fragments of the six fiction films made about Rembrandt between 1920 and 2007; from the earliest film made in 1920 and a Nazi propaganda film dating back to 1942 to the latest fiction film made in 2007. The Rembrandt House Museum will also be taking a closer look at its own *framing* of Rembrandt: how does the museum itself contribute to how Rembrandt is perceived?



Portrait of Rembrandt van Rijn, Pieter Louw, after Rembrandt van Rijn, 1743 - 1800

## **Rembrandt the movie hero**

*The pièce de résistance* of *Framing Rembrandt* is the second exhibition hall that will be converted into a cinema. Here, film fragments will be shown from the six fiction films (biopics) that were made about Rembrandt between 1920 and 2007. Each film has its own *framing*. Every generation learned about a different Rembrandt than the one before. What is interesting is that some of the myths surrounding Rembrandt keep coming back, such as the supposed failure of *The Night Watch*.

One of the six biopics, called *Rembrandt*, was directed by Nazi filmmaker Hans Steinhoff. The film premiered on Rembrandtplein in 1942 in the presence of Anton Mussert, leader of the National Socialist Movement (NSB). In this film, Rembrandt is portrayed as a hero of the Germanic people. He acquired his heroic status by overcoming several setbacks and enemies: the rejection of *The Night Watch*, his conflict with Geertje Dirckx, and his bankruptcy, which according to the film was attributable to his Jewish neighbours. This is an ultimate example of *framing*.

## **Which myths associated with Rembrandt prevail among museum visitors?**

Visitors will be asked to think about what assumptions they have regarding Rembrandt. Five cylinders containing coloured tokens will be placed at the entrance to the exhibition. Each cylinder stands for one of the five character types assigned to Rembrandt: a man of the people, a rebellious artist, a national hero, a misunderstood genius, or a saint. Visitors take a token from the cylinder that best sums up their perception of Rembrandt. Another five cylinders representing the five character types will be placed at the end of the exhibition. Will visitors stick to their original impression of Rembrandt or will their view of him have changed?

The exhibition *Framing Rembrandt* can be seen at the Rembrandt House Museum in Amsterdam from 4 November 2023 up to and including 5 February 2024. The press preview will take place on Tuesday 31 October.

Please register by sending an e-mail to [press-office@rembrandthuis.nl](mailto:press-office@rembrandthuis.nl)

**ALEXANDER KORDA**

*presents*

*Charles*  
**LAUGHTON** *as*  
**REMBRANDT**

*Directed by* **ALEXANDER KORDA**  
*with*  
*Gertrude* **LAWRENCE** *Elsa* **LANCHESTER**  
*Edward* **CHAPMAN**

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Rembrandt (1936) film poster

