



Royal Academy of Arts  
**Rubens**  
and His Legacy  
Van Dyck to Cézanne

**Rubens and His Legacy: Van Dyck to Cézanne**  
**24 January – 10 April 2015**

**Main Galleries**

Sponsored by



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Partner of the Royal Academy of Arts

The Royal Academy of Arts will present the first major exhibition in the UK to examine Rubens' influence on art history. *Rubens and His Legacy: Van Dyck to Cézanne* is an exploration of the artistic legacy of Peter Paul Rubens (1577–1640), the most influential of Flemish painters. The exhibition will bring together masterpieces by Rubens and the artists who were inspired by him, during his lifetime and up until the twentieth century, including Van Dyck, Watteau, Turner and Delacroix, as well as Manet, Cézanne, Renoir, Klimt and Picasso. *Rubens and His Legacy* will present over 160 works, comprising paintings, drawings and prints drawn from some of the finest collections world-wide. Each work has been carefully considered for its significance to Rubens' legacy.

One of the most prolific and sought after artists of his day, Rubens had an international list of patrons that included members of some of the most important royal families in Europe, the aristocracy and the Church. With an in-depth knowledge of Renaissance art, Rubens combined his studies of the Italian Masters to develop his own style of lively realism and rich brushwork, creating monumental and dynamic paintings. His great versatility and immense capacity to produce work meant that his creative output encompassed every genre of painting: altarpieces, family portraits, landscapes and historical and mythological scenes. Whilst Rubens is most renowned for the depiction of his fleshy, sensuous “Rubenesque” women, the exhibition will illustrate the breadth of his accomplishment and present an artist whose visual language, from composition to theme, style and colour, impacted on artists at the time and has had continued resonance for artists throughout the centuries following his death.

*Rubens and His Legacy* will be presented by six themes encompassing Poetry, Elegance, Power, Lust, Compassion and Violence. Each theme will link the work of Rubens to subsequent generations of great artists; starting with his assistant Van Dyck to Boucher and Watteau in the 1700s, Delacroix, Constable, Manet and Daumier in the 1800s, to Cézanne and Picasso 300 years after Rubens' death.

Where Poetry is the main theme, landscapes and bucolic scenes by Rubens such as *The Garden of Love*, c.1633, will be displayed alongside paintings including *The Harvest Wagon*, c.1784 by Gainsborough, *Cottage at East Bergholt*, c.1833 by Constable and *The Forest of Bere (Petworth)*, 1808 by Turner. A series of portraits will be presented within the theme of Elegance, including *Marchesa Maria Grimaldi and her Dwarf*, c.1607 by Rubens, *A Genoese Noblewoman and Her Son*,

c.1626 by Van Dyck and *Young Woman with Dog*, c.1769 by Fragonard. The section on Power will comprise history paintings by Le Brun and Jordaens, including *Triumph of Frederik Henry*, c.1650-51, as well as works by Latour, Thornhill and Verrio. Rubens' *Venus Frigida*, 1614, Cézanne's *Three Bathers*, 1875 and Picasso's *Faun Uncovering a Sleeping Woman*, 1936 will be represented in the section on Lust, as well as works by Manet, Daumier and Renoir. A selection of prints and paintings examining religious themes including Coello's *Virgin and Child Adored by St Louis, King of France*, 1665-68, *The Conversion of St. Paul*, 1675-82 by Murillo and *Crucifixion*, 1846 by Delacroix will be on display in the galleries that examine the theme of Compassion. The theme of Violence will bring together tumultuous hunting scenes such as *The Tiger Hunt*, 1616 by Rubens and Delacroix's *The Lion Hunt*, 1858.

Dr Nico Van Hout, curator of the exhibition says, "It is no coincidence that Delacroix, Vigée-Lebrun, Reynolds and Renoir devoted fascinating discourses, journal entries and letters on the virtuosity and confidence of Rubens' brushwork, as many artists were trained by seriously studying his altarpieces, allegories, portraits and landscapes. Each artist focused on different aspects of his oeuvre and the works in this exhibition show the great variety of this impact: they include exact copies, creative copies, pastiches and quotations to works that only echo Rubens' style. Only the best artists were able to translate Rubens' visual language into a personal idiom and we are delighted to bring together such a rich selection of works to showcase the ongoing strength of Rubens' legacy throughout the past three centuries."

## Biography

Peter Paul Rubens was born in Siegen in Westphalia (now Germany) in 1577 into a middle-class family. Following his father's death in 1587, the family moved to Antwerp, in the Southern Netherlands, where Rubens received an education and artistic training, serving as an apprentice to several established artists. In 1600, Rubens traveled to Italy, where he saw paintings by Renaissance Masters including Raphael, Michelangelo, Titian, Tintoretto, Mantegna and Veronese. Rubens' patron in Italy was the Duke of Mantua, Vincenzo Gonzaga, who commissioned works and also financially supported his travels, although Rubens was able to accept works by other patrons. Rubens returned to Antwerp in 1608, where he married Isabella Brant and established his own studio with a staff of assistants. His most famous pupil was the young Anthony Van Dyck, who soon became the leading Flemish portraitist and collaborated frequently with Rubens. Soon after his return to Antwerp, Rubens was appointed court painter to Archduke Albert and Archduchess Isabella, who governed the Spanish controlled Southern Netherlands, and he was also considered an ambassador and diplomat. In a time of social and economic recovery after war, Antwerp's affluent merchants were building their private art collections and churches were refurbished with new art. As a result, Rubens was able to accept commissions from whomever he chose. Following the death of his wife, Isabella, in 1626, Rubens travelled for several years, combining his artistic career with diplomatic visits to Spain and England on behalf of the Netherlands. When he returned to Antwerp five years later, he married his second wife, Hélène Fourment, who inspired many of the voluptuous figures of his paintings in the 1630s and although major works for international patrons still occupied him, Rubens also explored more personal artistic directions. After a prolific career spanning forty years, Rubens died of heart failure on 30 May 1640 and was interred in Saint Jacob's church, Antwerp.

## ORGANISATION

*Rubens and His Legacy: Van Dyck to Cézanne* has been organised by the Royal Academy of Arts, London, the Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp (KMSKA) and BOZAR (Centre for Fine Arts), Brussels. The exhibition is curated by Dr Nico Van Hout, Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp and Dr Arturo Galansino Curator, Royal Academy of Arts, London with an advisory committee of advisors including art historians, Sir Christopher White and Elizabeth McGrath.

## EXHIBITION TOUR

Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels (BOZAR)	25 September 2014 – 4 January 2015
Royal Academy of Arts, London	24 January – 10 April 2015

## CATALOGUE

*Rubens and His Legacy: Van Dyck to Cézanne* will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue. Authors include Nico Van Hout, Alexis Merle du Bourg, Gerlinde Gruber, Arturo Galansino, David Howarth, and Tim Baringer.

## SPONSOR'S STATEMENT

Michael Cole-Fontayn, Chairman of Europe, Middle East and Africa, BNY Mellon said: "BNY Mellon is a long-standing supporter of the arts and we have enjoyed a special partnership with the Royal Academy since 2007. We firmly believe cultural places and events contribute to making our communities vibrant, welcoming and desirable. Exciting exhibitions attract artists, families and visitors from all around the world and are the hallmark of creativity, freedom of speech and innovation – three pillars of modern British society. Public access and education remain central to our company's international programme of arts sponsorship and the Royal Academy strives to engage with the broadest possible audience through its exhibitions, events, publications and educational activities. BNY Mellon is proud to support *Rubens and His Legacy: From Van Dyck to Cézanne* and we hope that you enjoy this fascinating exhibition about this legendary artist and his influence."

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## MEDIA PARTNER

**The Telegraph**

## **DATES**

**Press view:** Tuesday 20 January 2015, 10am – 2pm  
**Open to public:** Saturday 24 January – Friday 10 April 2015  
10am – 6pm daily (last admission 5.30pm)  
**Late night opening:** Fridays until 10pm (last admission 9.30pm)

## **ADMISSION**

£16.50 full price (£15 without Gift Aid donation); concessions available; children under 16 and Friends of the RA go free.

## **TICKETS**

Tickets for *Rubens and His Legacy: Van Dyck to Cézanne* are available daily at the RA or visit [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk). Group bookings: Groups of 10+ are asked to book in advance. Telephone 020 7300 8027 or email [groupbookings@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:groupbookings@royalacademy.org.uk)

## **IMAGES**

Publicity images for *Rubens and His Legacy: Van Dyck to Cézanne* can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at [www.picselect.com](http://www.picselect.com) and once registered go to the Royal Academy of Arts folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

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