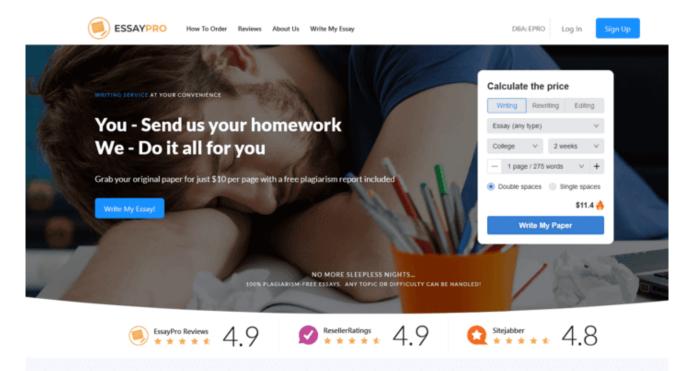
Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn



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Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn

Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, the son of a miller, was born in Leiden on July 15, 1606. Despite the fact that he came from a family of relatively modest means, his parents took great care with his education. Rembrandt began his studies at the Latin School, and at the age of 14 he was enrolled at the University of Leiden. The program did not interest him, and he soon left to study art, first with a local master, Jacob van Swanenburch, and then, with Pieter Lastman, in Amsterdam. After six months Rembrandt mastered everything he had been taught, he returned to Leiden, where he was soon so highly regarded that although only 22 years old, he took his first pupils. Though he is best known for his paintings he also created etchings and illustrations.

Rembrandt moved to Amsterdam in 1631 and married Saskia van Uylenburgh; the cousin of a successful art dealer in 1634, bringing him in contact with wealthy patrons who eagerly commissioned portraits. In addition, Rembrandt's mythological and religious works were much in demand, and he painted numerous dramatic masterpieces. Because of his renown as a teacher, his studio was filled with pupils, some of whom were already trained artists.

In contrast to his successful public career, however, Rembrandt's family life was marked by misfortune. Between 1635 and 1641 Saskia gave birth to four children, but only the last, Titus, survived; her own death came in 1642, at the age of 30. Hendrickje Stoffels, engaged as his housekeeper about 1649, eventually became his common-law wife and was the model for many of his pictures. Despite Rembrandt's financial success as an artist, teacher, and art dealer, his expensive lifestyle forced him to declare bankruptcy in 1656. An inventory of his collection of art and antiquities, taken before an auction to pay his debts, showed the variety of Rembrandt's interests: ancient sculpture, Flemish and Italian Renaissance paintings, Far Eastern art, contemporary Dutch works, weapons, and armor. Unfortunately, the results of the auction, including the sale of his house, were disappointing. These problems in no way affected Rembrandt's work; if anything, his artistry increased. His personal life, however, continued to be marred by sorrow. His beloved Hendrickje died in 1663, and his son, Titus, in 1668, only 27 years of age. Eleven months later, on ...

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...t. He was able to capture aspects of Rembrandt's tenderness and intimacy. Maes' Young Girl leaning on a Window is clearly derived from pictures such as Rembrandt's Young Girl at a half-open Door. Maes adopts Rembrandt's warm harmonies of red and yellow, black and white within a golden chiaroscuro. The sobriety and dark tonality of Frans Hal's late portraits, the grandeur of the landscapes of Jacob van Ruisdael, and the rich chiaroscuro of Willem Kalf's monumental still-lifes suggest that Rembradt's mature style made a profound impression on some of Holland's most creative artists. (Rosenberg, Jakob., Seymour Slive., E. H. Ter Kuile. Dutch Art and Architecture 1600 to 1800.)

It is easy to see that Rembrandt was inspired and influenced by many different artists. It is also easy to see that Rembrandt influenced many artists that came after him. One of the biggest influences on Rembrandt was Tintoretto's use of chiaroscuro, and the biggest influence that Rembrandt past down, was his color scheme.

Bibliography:

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