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STETSON UNIVERSITY

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Rembrandt Exhibit at Stetson University's Hand Art Center Examines Authenticity of Legendary Artist's Etchings

"Rembrandt Etchings: States, Fakes and Restrikes" provide an opportunity to spot a forgery

DELAND, Florida, Jan. 11, 2019 – Dutch artist Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, known collectively as Rembrandt, is one of the most influential printmakers in art history. He created copper plate etchings that featured a wide range of subjects — from self-portraits to studies of street life. His etched prints showcase comedic expression and sober social commentary that have inspired innumerable printmakers for centuries.

[Stetson University's Homer and Dolly Hand Art Center](#) will display more than 40 of the master artist's etchings during the free "Rembrandt Etchings: States, Fakes and Restrikes" exhibit, Jan. 18-March 1, with an opening-night reception on Friday, Jan. 25, 6-8 p.m. Complimentary parking is available in the East Arizona Avenue parking lot off of Amelia Avenue and [visitor parking spaces throughout campus](#).

The exhibition, which is on loan from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, examines the issues with authenticating Rembrandt's etchings and how to determine if an etching is a forgery by showing how copper plate etching prints are created. The display also includes first-state pulls from the artist's lifetime, restrike prints from the 17th to 20th centuries and fakes that are highlighted in red.

A first-state pull means that Rembrandt etched the copper plate and pulled it through the press and then onto the paper. Restrikes are etchings that were from Rembrandt's original copper plate that he etched, but were pulled by someone else after his death. The fakes were created from a counterfeit plate and not Rembrandt's copper plate etching.

Tonya Curran, director of the Hand Art Center, believes this exhibit may provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see Rembrandt's copper plate etchings.

"Rembrandt was an incredible printmaker who was using copper plate etching, which was a newer medium at the time," said Curran. "This method of printmaking allowed a diversity of lines and greater depth of value. It differed from engraving in that it is a chemical process rather than a physical process. The acid in copper plate etching allowed more curvature in the lines and a softness not often seen in engravings."

"The Rembrandt Etchings exhibit exposes students and the community to art history in the world and educates them about fakes," said Curran. "Art has value, but you want to know what is original or counterfeit. This exhibit is very special because not everyone has an opportunity to see an original Rembrandt and it's nice to have this prestigious display at the Hand Art Center on Stetson University's historic campus in DeLand."

[Katya Kudryavtseva, Ph.D.](#), assistant professor of art history, will be discussing the difficulties of attributing Rembrandt's artwork during "The Pains of Attributions in the Visual Arts: The Rembrandt Project" presentation on Thursday, Feb. 7, 7-8 p.m., in the duPont-Ball Library, room 25L. The event is free and open to the public.

Details along with a date and time will be announced shortly about copper plate etching printmaking fine artist [Chelsea Smith's](#) free presentation.

Additional free exhibits at the Hand Art Center include:

Faculty Focus with [Michael Katz](#), Jan. 18-March 1. Katz is a studio art instructor who creates digital art and teaches drawing and visual concepts at Stetson University. He has a Masters of Art in painting and Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio art degrees from Kent State University. During his career, he has been a graphic designer and illustrator, and has exhibited at the Cleveland Museum of Art, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art and Miami Metropolitan Museum and Art Center.

"Oscar Bluemner: The Beauty of Color," featuring works from the Vera Bluemner Kouba Collection, Jan. 18-May 2. Color is a big part of Oscar Bluemner's artwork and is the focus of the exhibition. Art history senior Simone R. Crawley conducted research about Bluemner's influences along with color theorists, artists and art styles and patterns, which is a part of the display. Crawley's research information will be featured next to Bluemner's artwork. Crawley learned after reading Bluemner's painting diaries that he admired German physicist and color theorist Wilhelm von Bezold and French artist and Post-Impressionist painter Paul Cézanne. Bluemner also applies color in a similar way as Cézanne and his personal notes state he attended the artist's shows. Bluemner recognized that color was his driving force and described his own life as "a life of supreme defiance with color."

Crawley will be discussing Bluemner's color theory and process during the "Oscar Bluemner's Color Theory" presentation on Wednesday, April 17, 7-8 p.m., in the duPont-Ball Library, room 25L. The event is free and open to the public.

About Stetson University

Founded in 1883, [Stetson University](#) is the oldest private university in Central Florida. Stetson focuses on intense learning experiences in a supportive community that allows students to develop their voice in a connected, inclusive environment. Stetson University ranks No. 5 on U.S. News & World Report's 2019 list of Best Regional Universities (South), and has been recognized as one of The Princeton Review's 384 Best Colleges, 2019 edition. [Stay connected](#) with Stetson on social media.

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