



**DATE: March 1, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MEDIA CONTACT
Valerie Tate
Getty Communications
(310) 440-6861
vtate@getty.edu

**THE J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM PRESENTS
*REMBRANDT AND THE INSPIRATION OF INDIA***

**March 13–June 24, 2018
at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Getty Center**



LEFT: *Shah Jahan* (detail), about 1656–58. Rembrandt Harmensz. van Riin (Dutch, 1606–1669). Dark brown ink and dark brown wash with scratching out on Asian paper toned with light brown wash, 22.5 × 17.1 cm. The Cleveland Museum of Art, Leonard C. Hanna, Jr. Fund 1978.38. Photograph © The Cleveland Museum of Art. **RIGHT:** *Jujhar Singh Bundela Kneels in Submission to Shah Jahan* (detail), about 1630. Bichitr (Mughal, active 1615–1650). Gouache and gold on paper, 38 × 27.3 cm. Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library. Image © Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin (CBL In 07A.16). Text and design © 2018 J. Paul Getty Trust

LOS ANGELES –Among the most surprising aspects of Rembrandt's prodigious output are twenty-three surviving drawings closely based on portraits made by artists working in Mughal India. These drawings mark a striking diversion for this quintessentially Dutch "Golden Age" artist, the only time he made a careful and extensive study of art from a dramatically different culture. *Rembrandt and the Inspiration of India*, on view March 13 – June 24, 2018, at the J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Center, explores for the first time the artist's Mughal drawings, exhibiting them alongside the Mughal paintings that inspired them to assess the impact of Indian art and culture on Rembrandt's artistic interests and working process as a draftsman.

"Rembrandt may be one of the most famous painters in European art history, but there are still remarkable discoveries to be made about his work," says Timothy Potts,



A Mughal Nobleman Standing, about 1656 – 1661. Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn (Dutch, 1606 - 1669) Pen and brown ink with grey and brown wash, touched with red chalk (in the turban) and white heightening. Framed: 60.3 x 45.1 cm (23 3/4 x 17 3/4 in.) The British Museum, London. Bequeathed by George Salting. © The Trustees of the British Museum. All rights reserved



Shah Jahan and Dara Shikoh, about 1656 – 1661. Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn (Dutch, 1606 - 1669) Brown ink and gray wash with scratchwork, 21.3 x 17.8 cm (8 3/8 x 7 in.) The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

director of the J. Paul Getty Museum. "This exhibition is a case in point, demonstrating how Rembrandt turned to the art of India to produce some of his most intriguing images. This vivid example of cultural exchange reminds us how artists on different continents take inspiration from one another, a reality that of course continues to this very day."

The exhibition pairs twenty of Rembrandt's surviving drawings depicting Mughal emperors, princes, and courtiers with Indian paintings and drawings of similar compositions, which had been brought to Amsterdam from the Dutch trading post in Surat. Rembrandt's portraits reveal how his contact with Mughal art inspired him to draw in a newly refined and precise style.

"The critical eye and attentive curiosity Rembrandt turned towards Mughal portrait conventions still captivates viewers today. At this late stage in his career, around 1656-1661, this meticulous rendering is exceptional," says Stephanie Schrader, Curator of Drawings and organizer of the exhibition.

Rembrandt and the Inspiration of India also examines how global trade and cultural exchange impacted artists working for Mughal emperors in India, who were in turn inspired by Dutch and Flemish printed images of European rulers and scenes of daily life. Among the treasures found in a Dutch East India ship, which sank en route to China, was a package that contained four hundred prints by and after Dutch and Flemish artists. This astounding quantity suggests that Dutch merchants thought that art would help them gain

access to the Asian market in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. These prints were particularly interesting to Mughal court artists, who were already accustomed to working

with single-tone drawings and calligraphy. Rather than copy the European compositions exactly, Mughal artists adapted them to their own artistic purposes, as seen in Keshav Das's *Roman Hero* (about 1590-95), based on prints by the Dutch artist Hendrick Goltzius. The use of these prints illuminates the range of images that found a positive reception in India long before Rembrandt made his creative copies.

The Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan (r. 1627-1658) was well known for his patronage of the arts — most notably the building of the Taj Mahal. Shah Jahan's rule of Mughal India spanned the years that Rembrandt worked in Leiden and Amsterdam. In his eight drawings of Shah Jahan, more than he made of any other Mughal ruler, Rembrandt carefully studied the trappings of imperial magnificence, as seen in *on Horseback (Shah Jahan)* (about 1656-61). The poetic claim that Shah Jahan was "Royal Rider of the Piebald Steed of the World" was not lost on Rembrandt.

Rembrandt's drawings after Mughal compositions constitute the largest group, by far, of his copies after other works of art. Moreover, they are his only surviving drawings on expensive Asian paper, which suggests the high value the artist himself placed on them. *Shikoh (about 1656-60)* is quite different from the typically known "late Rembrandt" style of drawing. His careful attention to details of clothing, jewelry, turbans, and footwear pays tribute to Mughal artists' exceptional artifice.

On almost every level, Rembrandt and the Indian court painters operated in completely different worlds. Yet such differences did not prevent these innovative artists from appropriating foreign imagery to reflect upon and enrich their own more familiar artistic practice and culture.

Rembrandt and the Inspiration of India is curated by Stephanie Schrader, curator in the Department of Drawings. The exhibition is on view at the J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Center from March 13 –June 24, 2018.

The exhibition is generously supported by City National Bank. With additional support from Maria Hummer-Tuttle and Robert Holmes Tuttle.

Related programming includes *India through a European Lens: Seventeenth Century Images and Words*, in which Sanjay Subrahmanyam examines the perception of India in seventeenth-century Western Europe, as mediated through images (prints, miniatures, etc.), as well as by words, especially those of travelers, traders, and missionaries. In addition there will be a symposium, *Drawing from Mughal India in the Age of Rembrandt*,

that traces historical, political, economic, and artistic points of contact between Europe and the Mughal Empire in the early modern period. Additional information can be found at getty.edu/360.

#

The J. Paul Getty Trust is an international cultural and philanthropic institution devoted to the visual arts that includes the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Research Institute, the Getty Conservation Institute, and the Getty Foundation. The J. Paul Getty Trust and Getty programs serve a varied audience from two locations: the Getty Center in Los Angeles and the Getty Villa in Pacific Palisades.

The J. Paul Getty Museum collects Greek and Roman antiquities, European paintings, drawings, manuscripts, sculpture and decorative arts to 1900, as well as photographs from around the world to the present day. The Museum's mission is to display and interpret its collections, and present important loan exhibitions and publications for the enjoyment and education of visitors locally and internationally. This is supported by an active program of research, conservation, and public programs that seek to deepen our knowledge of and connection to works of art.

Additional information is available at www.getty.edu.

Sign up for e-Getty at www.getty.edu/subscribe to receive free monthly highlights of events at the Getty Center and the Getty Villa via e-mail, or visit www.getty.edu for a complete calendar of public programs.