

# Peter Paul Rubens

**Dutch Flemish**

28 June 1577 – 30 May 1640

Rubens was born in 1577 in Siegen to Jan Rubens and Maria Pypelincks. Religion figured prominently in much of his work, and Rubens later became one of the leading voices of the Catholic Counter-Reformation style of painting<sup>[7]</sup> (he had said "My passion comes from the heavens, not from earthly musings"). In Antwerp, Rubens received a Renaissance humanist education, studying Latin and classical literature. By fourteen he began his artistic apprenticeship with Tobias Verhaeght. Subsequently, he studied under two of the city's leading painters of the time. In 1600 Rubens traveled to Italy. He stopped first in Venice,<sup>[10]</sup> where he saw paintings by Titian, Veronese, and Tintoretto. Rubens travelled to Spain on a diplomatic mission in 1603. Upon hearing of his mother's illness in 1608, Rubens planned his departure from Italy for Antwerp. However, she died before he arrived home. Rubens's last decade was spent in and around Antwerp. In 1630, four years after the death of his first wife Isabella, the 53-year-old painter married his first wife's niece, the 16-year-old H el ene Fourment. H el ene inspired the voluptuous figures in many of his paintings from the 1630s. Rubens died from heart failure as a result of his chronic gout on 30 May 1640.

For the first time in over two hundred years, Peter Paul Rubens's (1577-1640) two great masterpieces of landscape painting, *The Rainbow Landscape* (The Wallace Collection) and *A View of Het Steen in the Early Morning* (The National Gallery) are reunited as part of an exhibition at the Wallace Collection from 3 June - 15 August 2021.

Although kept together in Rubens's own collection, the paintings were brought to London in 1803, and separated for good with *The Rainbow Landscape* eventually entering the Wallace Collection and *A View of Het Steen in the Early Morning*, the National Gallery collection.

Painted as a companion pair, these sweeping panoramic works show Rubens's newly acquired manor house and estate, Het Steen, at Elewijt (between Brussels and Antwerp) as it was in about 1636. They both celebrate the fertile countryside of Brabant, and pay homage to the great Flemish tradition of landscape painting. The visitor to this exhibition will have a unique opportunity to experience these great paintings together and on their own, and to be immersed in their wealth of detail and ambitious scale.





The Rainbow Landscape





An Autumn Landscape with a View of Het Steen in the Early Morning. 1636. Oil on Oak. 131.2 x 229.2 cm





Portrait of Susanna Lunden(?) ('Le Chapeau de Paille'). 1622-5. Oil on oak.  
79 x 54.6 cm





Portrait of Ludovicus Nonnius. 1627.  
Oil on wood. 124.4 x 92.2 cm





A Roman Triumph. 1630. Oil on canvas stuck down on oak. 86.8 x 163.9 cm





The Miraculous Draught of Fishes. 1618-19. Black chalk, pen and oil on paper, stuck on canvas. 55 x 85 cm





The Birth of Venus. about  
1632-3. Black chalk and oil on  
oak. 61 x 78 cm





The Brazen Serpent. 1635-40. Oil on canvas. 186.4 x 264.5 cm





Old Woman and Boy with Candles, c. 1616/17



