

REMBRANDT IN GENEVA

From 30 November to 17 March 2024, the International Museum of the Reformation in Geneva (MIR) will present 70 religious etchings by the Dutch master, in collaboration with the Museum of Art and History of Geneva (MAH). The landmark exhibition “Rembrandt and the Bible. Divine etching” traces the artist’s deeply personal relationship to religion and its representations. Since reopening this spring after two years of renovation, the MIR has seen a 20% increase in the number of visitors.

Rembrandt has taken over the International Museum of the Reformation (MIR) in Geneva. The exhibition “Rembrandt and the Bible” brings together for the first time an exceptional collection of 70 religious and biblical etchings by one of the most important artists in the history of Western art. Most of the collection is on loan from the Museum of Art and History of Geneva (MAH) and complemented by several works from the Musée Jenish in Vevey and the Jan Krugier Foundation. It comprises more than two-thirds of Rembrandt’s etchings on religious and biblical themes, depicting such familiar Bible stories as Adam and Eve eating the forbidden Fruit, the Sacrifice of Abraham, the Resurrection of Lazarus, the Crucifixion, etc.. The exhibition underlines Rembrandt’s artistic genius and technical virtuosity. Additionally, “Rembrandt and the Bible” explores the social and religious context that informed his art, in particular the considerable freedom of religion enjoyed by the people of Amsterdam in the 17th century, despite the dominance of the Reformed faith.

Curated by Bénédicte De Donker, curator in the Prints and Drawings Department at the MAH, the scenography of “Rembrandt and the Bible” emphasizes the Dutch master’s love of chiaroscuro. Enlargements of selected scenes allow visitors to explore their intricate details. In addition to this immersive presentation of Rembrandt’s art, a self-portrait of the artist, portraits of his contemporaries from different religions, a biographical, historical, and artistic chronology, and a film on Rembrandt’s etching technique contribute to create an enjoyable, informative experience. An exhibition guide provides informational content in ten different languages (French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, Japanese, Korean, Chinese).

Particular attention has been given to programming: visitors can print their own reproduction of a Rembrandt etching by hand, using a Gutenberg-inspired press, and guided tours and lectures will be offered throughout the four months of the exhibition. Lastly, a stunning 240-pages exhibition catalogue features reproductions of the works along with commentaries and historical essays (“Rembrandt et la Bible. Gravure divine,” edited by Bénédicte De Donker and published by Labor et Fides).

Founded in 2005, the International Museum of the Reformation reopened in April 2023 after a two-year long renovation. The 20% increase in the number of visitors since reopening is a testament to its success. Blending the secular and the historical, the MIR’s new permanent exhibition presents a fresh perspective on the Protestant Reformation. Enhanced by playful and educational augmented-reality animations, it aims to engage with a broad and diverse audience. The MIR is housed in a historic mansion in the heart of Geneva’s old town, next to Saint-Pierre Cathedral.

Download illustrations, poster and press kit
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