

# Introduction

Though most famously known as one of Europe's greatest portrait painters, Rembrandt is also widely considered one of the finest printmakers of all time. His works are characterized by naturalness of subject and a dramatic balance of light and shadow or *chiaroscuro* - derived from the work of Italian Renaissance master Caravaggio.

*Rembrandt Etchings: States, Fakes and Restrikes* showcases 40 prints gifted to the UWM Art Collection by Emile H. Mathis II. It includes restrikes and fakes made between the early 1700s and late 1900s. Most importantly, the show features prints from Rembrandt's lifetime, likely pulled by Rembrandt himself. The exhibition's featured image—the first of three states, lifetime pull of *Self Portrait in Velvet Cap with Plume*—is on view, along with a restrike and a forgery of the same image.

Arranged by subject, the prints are presented in chronological order based upon the date Rembrandt's original plate was created, providing an overview of his printmaking career.