

Dutch Painters of the Baroque

Art Discussed:

Rembrandt, *Anatomy Lesson of Doctor Tulp*

Rembrandt, *The Night Watch*

Rembrandt, *Self-Portrait*

HW: Read about Rembrandt other paintings in the text and discuss how he interpreted religious scenes.

Rembrandt, *Anatomy Lesson of Doctor Tulp*

- First great commission
- Dutch law: open cadavers of executed criminals only, allowed for entertainment purposes like this
- Specific anatomy lesson in January 1632
- Lessons took 4-5 days, Descartes may have attended this one
- Dr. Tulp is singled out seated in a chair of honor
- He wears a broad rimmed hat: academic badge of chairman
- His hands (alone) are prominently shown
- Cadaver's body compared to the book at right
- Caravaggesque background
- Figures stare out into space

Rembrandt, *The Night Watch*

- 18 men portrayed in the commission, represented according to how much they paid, but 29 figures in total, 2 figures cut off when the painting was cut down at left
- Civic guard group getting ready for a march, makes for a lively composition

- Captain Frans Banning Cocq holds a baton in right hand and wears a red sash, wears a gorget of steel barely visible under his white collar
- Captain gestures as if to speak
- Orders given to his lieutenant to march forward
- Central figures come forward
- Use of musket shown: musketeer in red is charging his musket by transferring powder into the muzzle from one of the wooden cartridges attached to his bandolier
- Figure behind Cocq is firing musket
- Third figure behind lieutenant is clearing the pan by blowing off the powder that remained there after the shot
- Deep chiaroscuro
- Liveliness of figures, psychological penetration

Rembrandt, *Self-Portrait*

- Probed states of human soul
- Changing lights and darks suggest changing of human mood
- Self-satisfied artist at the height of his career
- Perfect circles behind are drawn with one hand perhaps as a sign of ability