RKD NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR KUNSTGESCHIEDENIS

RKD Research
The Digital Hub for Art Historical Research

Astrid Verheusen, Director of Business Operations

Reinier van 't Zelfde, Information Manager

RKD, Netherlands Institute For Art History

RKD – Netherlands Institute for Art History

RKD is a global leader in art-historical knowledge of the Low Countries

- Founded in 1932
- Collections are accessible digitally and in our reading room

RKD NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR KUNSTGESCHIEDENIS

Mission

The RKD provides ***worldwide access to Knowledge, Research and Information*** about ***Dutch Art*** *in an international context,* to ***Museums***, ***Academic Community*** and *the* ***General Public*** alike.

Vision

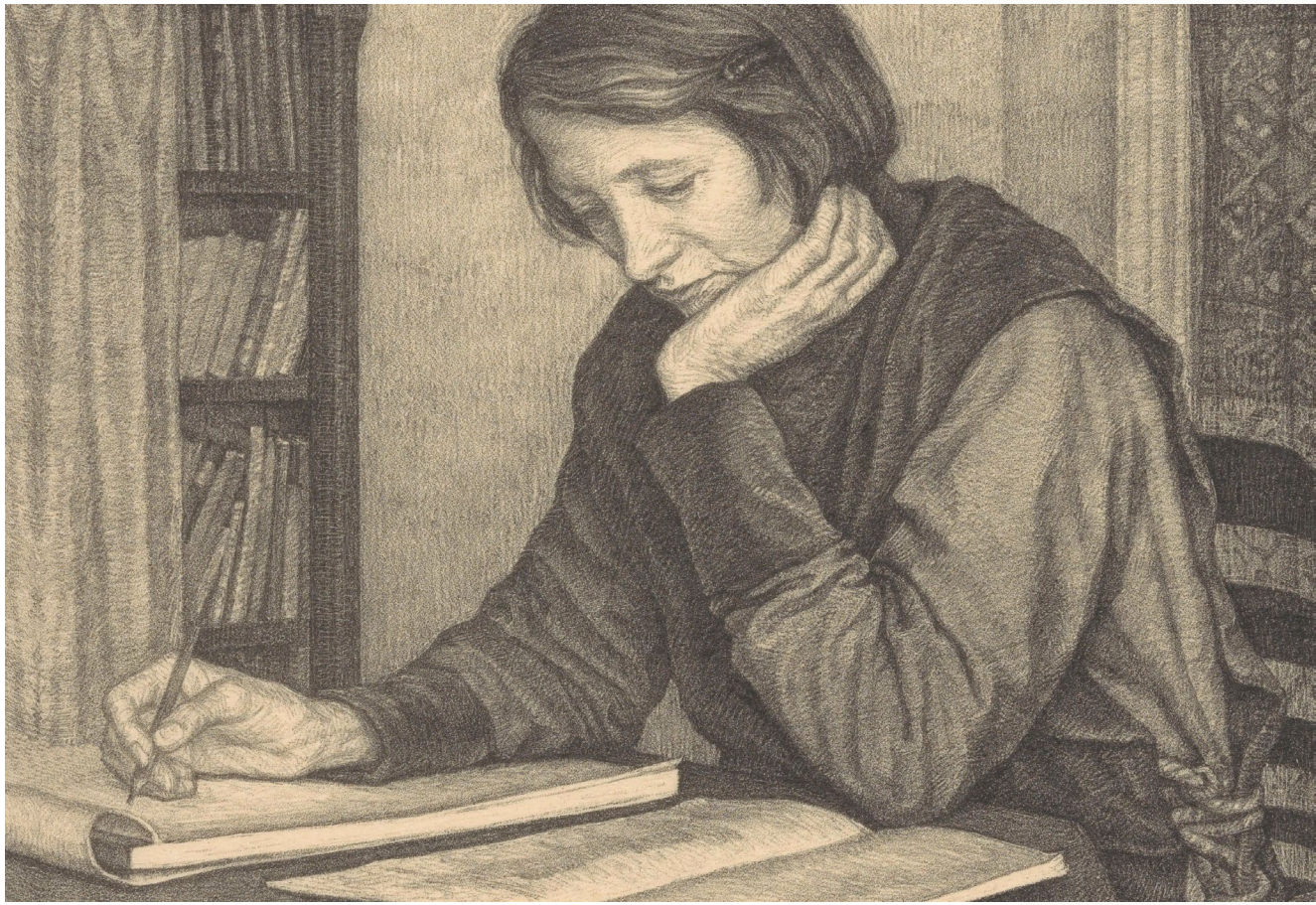
The RKD acquires, administers, researches, connects and presents art-historical knowledge and information for museums, the academic community and public alike. We actively strive to involve people in developments and proposals for future improvements in digital services, public outreach and digital sustainability. We are outward facing in the way we shape our mission.

RKD – Collection

RKD NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR KUNSTGESCHIEDENIS

RKD curates a vast national collection, including:

- Databases
- Archives
- A primary Library for Visual Arts in the Low Countries



Latest Acquisation: archive of correspondence by artist Sanne Bruinier

Facts and figures

RKD NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR KUNSTGESCHIEDENIS

Archives

900 archives
over 2.5 kilometres

Library

500,000 volumes of
art historical reference material

Images

5 million digital images of art

Users, partners & funding

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Users

- Academia
- Auction houses
- Galleries
- Dealers
- Collectors
- The Public

Partners

- Universities
- Museums
- Cultural institutions
- Private organizations

Funding

- The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
- We preserve the **National Collection** and contribute to research, publications, and exhibitions

Located in the Hague

RKD NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR KUNSTGESCHIEDENIS

RKD's Role in Data Accessibility and Integration

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Key Function:

The RKD plays a crucial role in making its Data accessible and connecting it with other datasets in line with the **Dutch National Strategy for Digital Heritage**

How RKD achieves this:

- Digitization of Collections
- Providing Data as Linked Open Data
- Continuous Data Quality Improvement

RKD's Digital Transition

Transition to Digital Services: Shift from physical to digital services

RKD NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR KUNSTGESCHIEDENIS

2022

Ministry of Education Review Recommendations

Ministry: "**digitization** is a **priority** because digitization offers opportunities for **increased audience reach**, innovation, education, and the preservation, management, and use of digital heritage."

1. Develop a radical **Digital Strategy** for societal alignment.
2. Clarify and solidify **Public Function** and **Social relevance**.

RKD's Digital Transition

Transition to Digital Services: Shift from physical to digital services

RKD NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR KUNSTGESCHIEDENIS

2023

RKD's Response:

- Digital Strategy:

  Clear definition of **User Groups**.

  Introduction of **Innovative Services**, especially digital.

- Launch of RKD Research Platform:

  Provides enhanced accessibility to Research Resources and Tools.

(Digital) Strategy

Core objectives

- The **Knowledge Network and Platform** within the **Art Historical Knowledge Domain**
- Easily **Accessable** for a wide Audience
- Transition: from ‘analogue’ to ‘**a combination of analogue and digital**’
- **Scientific** and **Socially** valued **Research**
- **Strong Visibility** and **use** of Services among different Target Groups

(Digital) Strategy

Two-Track approach User Groups

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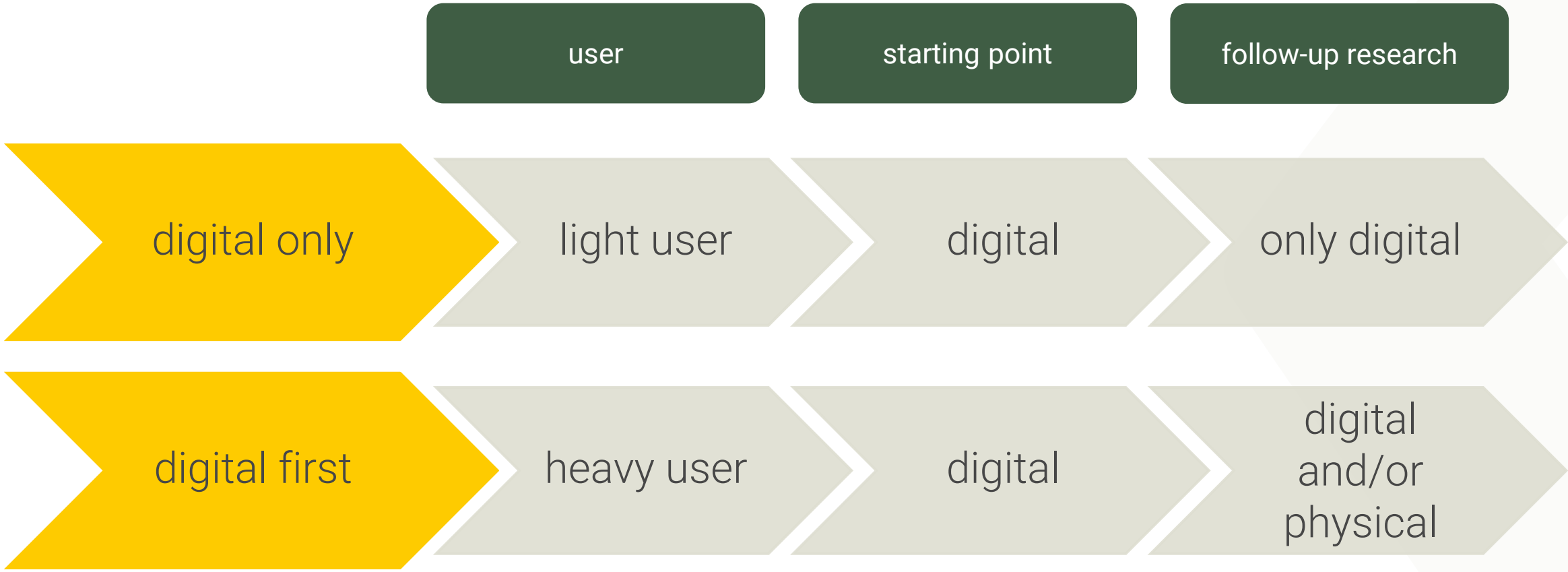

(Digital) Strategy

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RKD: The Digital Entry Portal to enable others to do unique research

*With its unique and most complete collection, **the RKD is the Knowledge Institute and Point of Entry** for research into the visual arts of the Netherlands in an international perspective by making unique parts of the collection **Digitally Accessible**, combined with **Innovative Tooling** (enabling new types of art-historical research).*

*The RKD focuses on both the **Art-loving Private Individual** (digital only) and the **Intensive Researcher** (digital first) with a two-track strategy. For the intensive researcher, community building initiatives are building a growing group of enthusiastic users and ambassadors of tomorrow.*

(Digital) Strategy

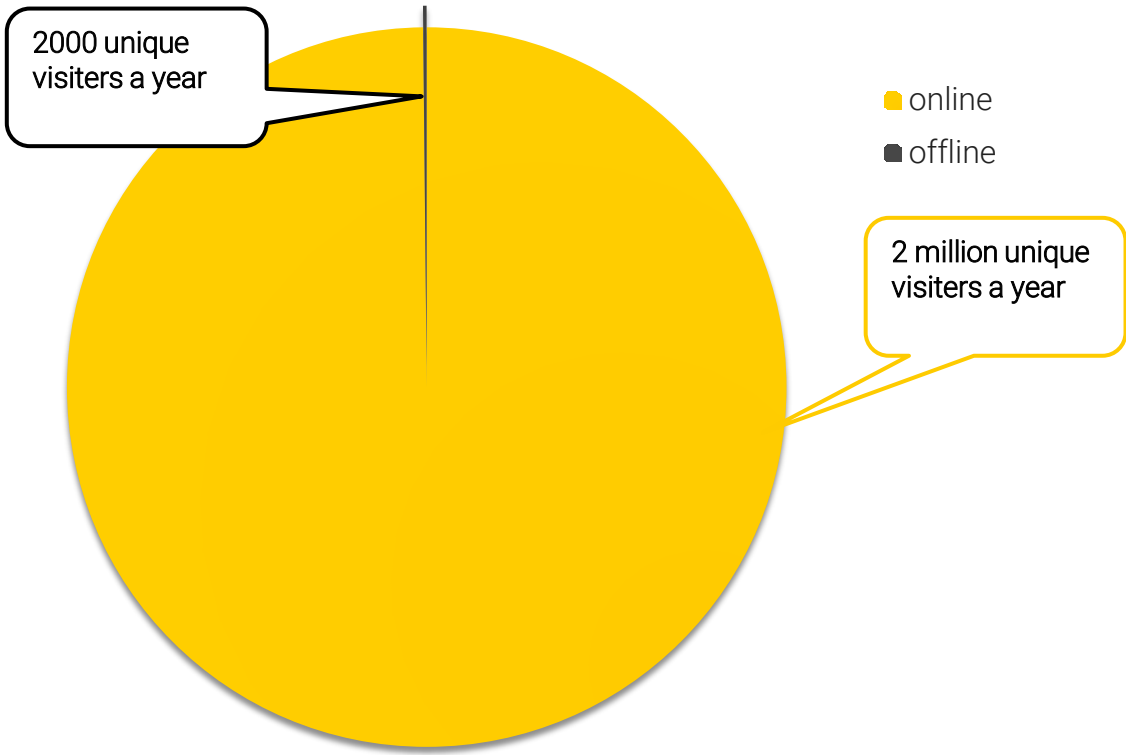
RKD NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR KUNSTGESCHIEDENIS

RKD: The Digital Entry Portal to enable Others to do unique Research

- Main **Knowledge Institute** and **Entry Point** for Visual Arts Research in the Netherlands
- Digitally accessible **unique Collection** combined with **Innovative Tools** enable **new Types of Art-Historical Research**
- Strategy targets both **Art-loving Private Individuals** (digital only) and **Intensive Researchers** (digital first)
- Community building initiatives foster a growing group of **enthusiastic users** and **ambassadors**

RKD – Visitors

Numbers of visitors with current online databases



The difference between online visitors and study room visitors will only increase in the future.

The knowledge institute of the visual arts of the Low Countries

The RKD — Netherlands Institute for Art History offers museums, academic community and the public a wealth of collections, knowledge and publications for extensive research and inspiration

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RKD Research

Ned Eng Login

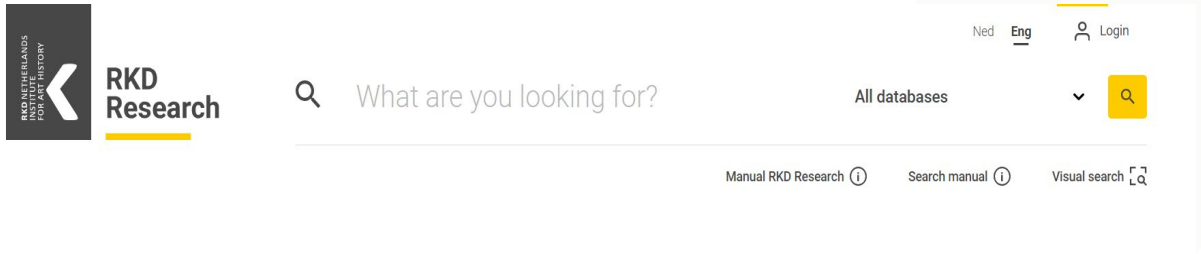
What are you looking for?

All databases

Manual RKD Research Search manual Visual search

December 2023: Launch RKD Research

- The **RKD Research Interface** provides access to RKD's art **History Databases**, including information on artworks, individuals, institutions, research results, and historical archives.
- Researchers can select, view, and compare images in a **Digital Workspace**, with access to five million art reproductions through a **Visual Search** facility.
- RKD Research complements other institutions' collections and is published as **Linked Open Data** for reuse and connectivity.



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“Strategy is about choices:

You can’t be all things for all people.”

Philip Kotler

Ongoing challenges

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1. Costs

In 2019, we received a **€1.5 million** interest-free **Loan** for digitizing 6 million images and developing the RKD Research platform,
but the total costs were **€6.5 million**.

2. Business model

The Platform and Data are **free to use**, but a small fee is charged for the use of Innovative Tools, involving a partnership with a publisher that brought additional challenges.

Ongoing challenges

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3. New Competences

- Dealing with **Suppliers**
- Making careful choices about your services (which services will you stop providing?)
- **Prioritize Resources**
- Balancing **Quality** and **Costs**

4. Linked Open Data

Creating **Linked Open Data** proved to be a challenge

RKD and Linked Open Data

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Digital strategy

- '[…] the RKD is the Knowledge Institute and Point of Entry for research into the visual arts of the Netherlands […]'
- Publishing our own Data in Databases
- Connecting our Data to external Art Historical Sources -> by Linked Open Data

RKD Research

- All data in our databases are available as LOD (SPARQL endpoint)
  - Ontologies: CIDOC-crm (works of art, biographical information), RICO (archives), RDA (library), SCHEMA (biographical information), SKOS (thesaurus)
  - For Reuse and Connecting

Genealogy Lemckert » Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890)

Personal data Vincent van Gogh ♂

- He was born on March 30, 1853 in Zundert, Noord-Brabant, Nederland.
- He died on July 29, 1890 in Auvers-sur-Oise, Frankrijk, he was 37 years old.
- A child of Theodorus van Gogh and Anna Cornelia Carbentus
- This information was last updated on January 19, 2023.

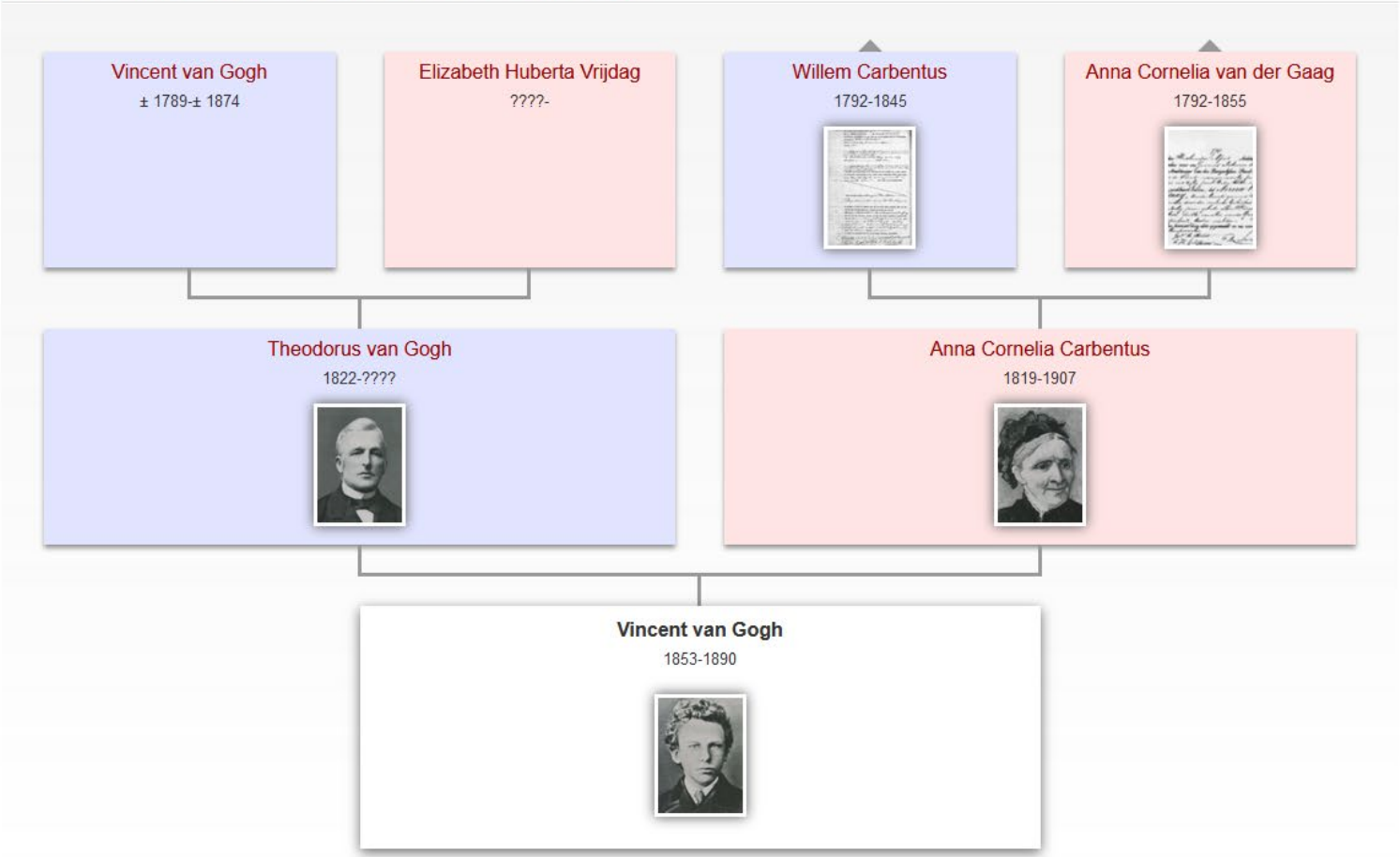
- There is more biographical information available about Vincent van Gogh on RKDartists

Household of Vincent van Gogh

Do you have supplementary information, corrections or questions with regards to Vincent van Gogh?
The author of this publication would love to hear from you!

Genealogy Lemckert » Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890)

Ancestors (and descendant) of Vincent van Gogh



Digital Heritage Reference Architecture (DERA)

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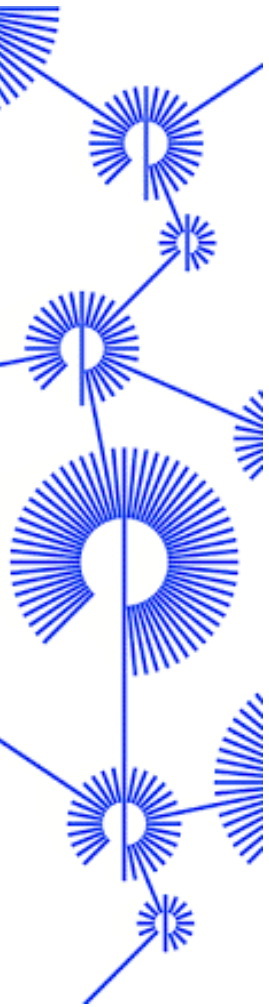

DERA

- Dutch Government stimulates the publication of **Heritage Data based Principles**
  - Make information connectable -> LOD
    - Persistent Identifiers
    - Open Standards -> Ontologies
    - Shared Terminology and Named Entity Sources -> Network of Terms

Searching shared thesauri, classification systems, and reference lists

for managers of heritage collections

for administrators of terminology resources

for terminology resource providers

for heritage software developers

Search terms | Look up term

Search words: For example: Rembrandt, Amsterdam or painting

Terminology sources: Select one or more terminology sources

Search

Cultural Heritage Agency
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

The Network of Terms is the result of collaboration within the Digital Heritage Network, in collaboration with CLARIAH, and is managed and maintained by the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands.

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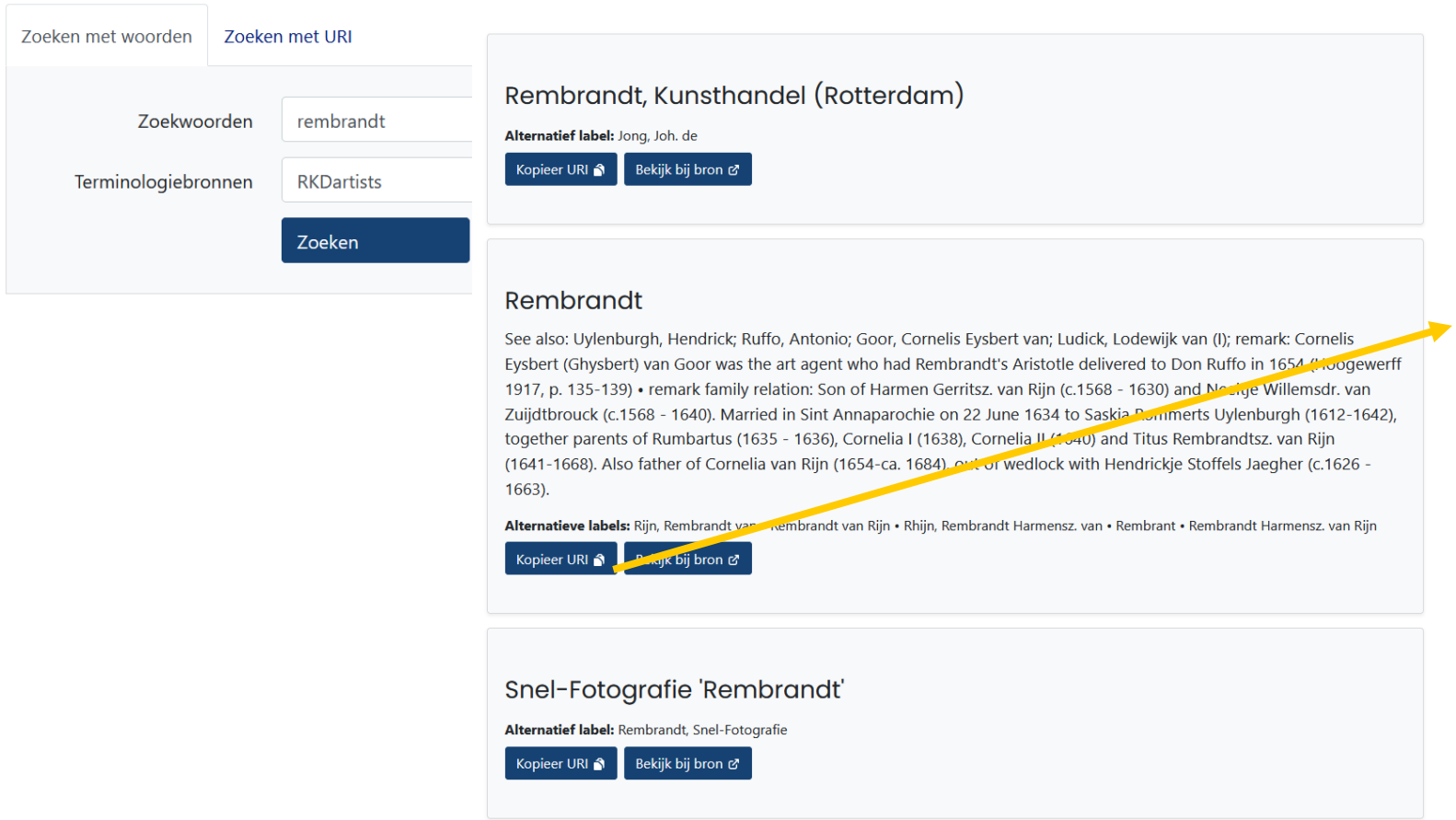

https://data.rkd.nl/artists/66219

Dataset description

https://data.spinque.com/ld/data/vangoghworldwide/rkd_collections/

URI	https://data.spinque.com/ld/data/vangoghworldwide/rkd_collections/
Title	RKD Collections: Artworks by Vincent van Gogh
Description	Data about artworks (paintings, drawings, prints) by Vincent van Gogh in several museum collections. Included in the Van Gogh Worldwide platform (https://data.spinque.com/ld/data/vangoghworldwide/). Modeled according to the Linked Art Data Model (https://github.com/vangoghworldwide/linkedart).
License	https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/
Distribution	genid-9c71a18695734df3a59b88d4c449ccf6-bc_0_df_81271_24
AccessURL	https://data.spinque.com/ld/data/vangoghworldwide/rkd_collections/data/export.nt
Format	application/n-triples
ByteSize	4756595
Modified	2023-10-10T12:56:29+02:00
Publisher	https://vangoghworldwide.org/
Name	Van Gogh worldwide consortium, represented by the Netherlands Institute of Art History (RKD)

RKD and LOD sources

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- Connections between Records in RKD databases and external sources
  Like the Genealogie Online connection, but the other way around

- Integrating Data from external LOD sources in the RKD Knowledge Graph
  Van Gogh Worldwide

Back 1 / 724

Rembrandt

male / North Netherlandish
art collector, engraver (printmaker), naturalia collector, collector of ethnographica, etcher, painter, draftsperson

Works in RKDimages	544
Publications in RKDlibrary	845
Documents in RKDarchives	67
Works in external websites	1678
Biographies in external websites	12

Biographical

Name variations

Rhijn, Rembrandt Harmensz. van
Rembrandt van Rijn
Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn
Rijn, Rembrandt van
Rembrant

Nationality/school

NORTH NETHERLANDISH

Born

LEIDEN (CITY) 1606-07-15/1607

No date of birth or baptismal certificate is known. The first to mention a date of birth is Orlers in 1641 in the second edition of his 'Beschrijvinge der Stadt Leyden'. Orlers mentions July 15th, 1606 as Rembrandt's date of birth. Because in general Orlers is a reliable source, this information is thrustworthy. However, there are two 17th century documents on the basis of which another date of birth can be suspected. In the notice of marriage from Rembrandt and Saskia van Uylenburgh from June 10th, 1634 the age of Rembrandt is stated as 26 years. This would mean that Rembrandt wasn't born in 1606 but in 1607 or even in 1608 (Strauss/Van der Meulen 1979, doc. 1634/2). The second document is a statement of authenticity of a painting by Paul Bril on September 16th, 1653. The age of Rembrandt is stated here as 'out omtrent

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RKD Research

Ned Eng Login

What are you looking for?

RKDartists

Back 1 / 724

Rembrandt

male / North Netherlandish
art collector, engraver
(printmaker), naturalia collector,
collector of ethnographica, etche
painter, draftsperson

Works in RKDimages
Publications in RKDlibrary
Documents in RKDarchives

Works in external websites
Biographies in external websites

RKD NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE FOR ART HISTORY

RKD Research

What are you looking for?

RKDartists

Works by Rembrandt in Wikidata (1654)

1655
commons:Rembrandt 2...
Daniel's Vision of the Four ...
print
Rembrandt
wd:Q111821799

1650
commons:Rembrandt - Emperor J...
drawing
Rembrandt
wd:Q112619716

1634
commons:Bust of a Be...
Bust of a Bearded Old Man
painting
Rembrandt
wd:Q112626371

1656
commons:School of Rembra...
Bearded Man in a Fur Hat (Previ...
painting
Gerbrand van den Eeckhout
wd:Q112626733

commons:Rembrandt - Circle of - Abraham's ...
Abrahams offer
drawing
Rembrandt
wd:Q110773704

commons De Staalmeesters (Rembrandt) - Rijksmuseum
Syndics of the Drapers' Guild
Painting
Rembrandt
wd:Q110802068

Works by Rembrandt in Rijksmuseum Amsterdam (35)

Syndics of the Drapers' Guild
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syndics_of_the_Drapers'_Guild
120%
Login

Syndics of the Drapers' Guild

Contents hide

(Top)
See also
References
External links

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

You can help **expand this article with text translated from the corresponding article in Dutch**. *(July 2020)* Click [show] for important translation instructions. [show]

The Sampling Officials (Dutch: *De Staalmeesters*), also called ***Syndics of the Drapers' Guild*** (Dutch: *De waardijns van het Amsterdamse lakenbereidersgilde*), is a 1662 oil painting by Rembrandt. It is now in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam.[1] It has been described as his "last great collective portrait".[2]

The men (with the exception of Bel who is an attendant as indicated by his calotte) are drapers who were elected to assess the quality of cloth that weavers offered for sale to members of their guild. Their one-year terms in office began on Good Friday and they were expected to conduct their inspections thrice weekly. The Dutch word *staal* means 'sample' and refers to the samples of cloth that were assessed. The inspectors used pliers to press the seals of their city (front) and guild (reverse) into penny-sized slugs of lead that were specially affixed to record the results of the inspection.[3] There were four grades of quality, the highest was indicated by pressing four seals and the lowest by pressing only one.

The men, who are appraising a length of Persian-style fabric against exemplars from a swatch book, are (from left to right):

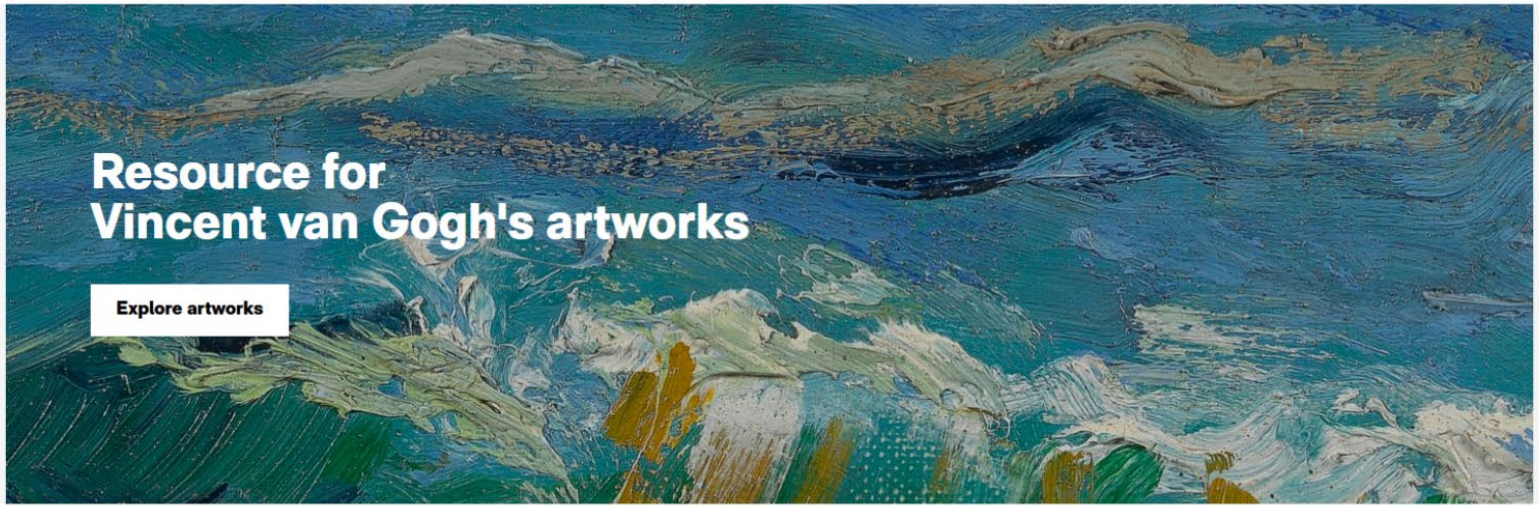
The Sampling Officials
Dutch: *De Staalmeesters*

Artist	Rembrandt
Year	1662
Medium	Oil on canvas
Movement	Baroque painting, Dutch Golden Age painting
Dimensions	191.5 cm × 279 cm (75.4 in × 110 in)
Location	Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

Zoeken
13:32
15-6-2024

Van Gogh Worldwide

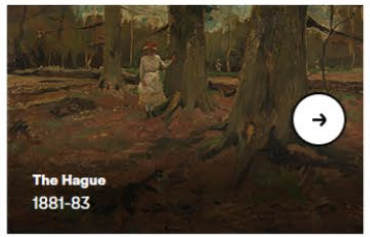
Search for artwork title, collection number, F number etc.



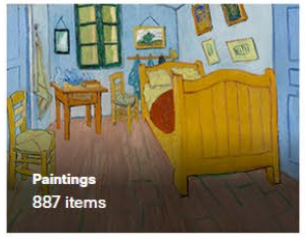
Resource for Vincent van Gogh's artworks

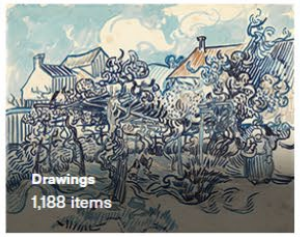
Explore artworks

Artworks by period



Artworks by object category





News

28 September 2023

Change of management of Van Gogh Worldwide →

07 August 2023

User survey and new participants →

21 February 2023

News page Van Gogh Worldwide →

Van Gogh Worldwide

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All works of art by Vincent van Gogh aggregated in a knowledge graph

- Based on DERA principles
- Data directly derived from owners. **Owners** are responsible for **correct Data**
- No enrichment of Data in the aggregated set
- Data delivered in LADM standard, content is based on international open vocabularies like AAT and ULAN

Lessons learned

- It works. It is possible to create a knowledge graph based on these principles
- Data is not available in the VGW standard. We had to convince data owners to create a dump, api or SPARQL endpoint to provide the data
- Some **owners claim copyright** on the images of the works of art
- Some Institutes **refuse** to **share their Data Openly**

How to connect?

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1. Find relevant connections and add them to the databases manually

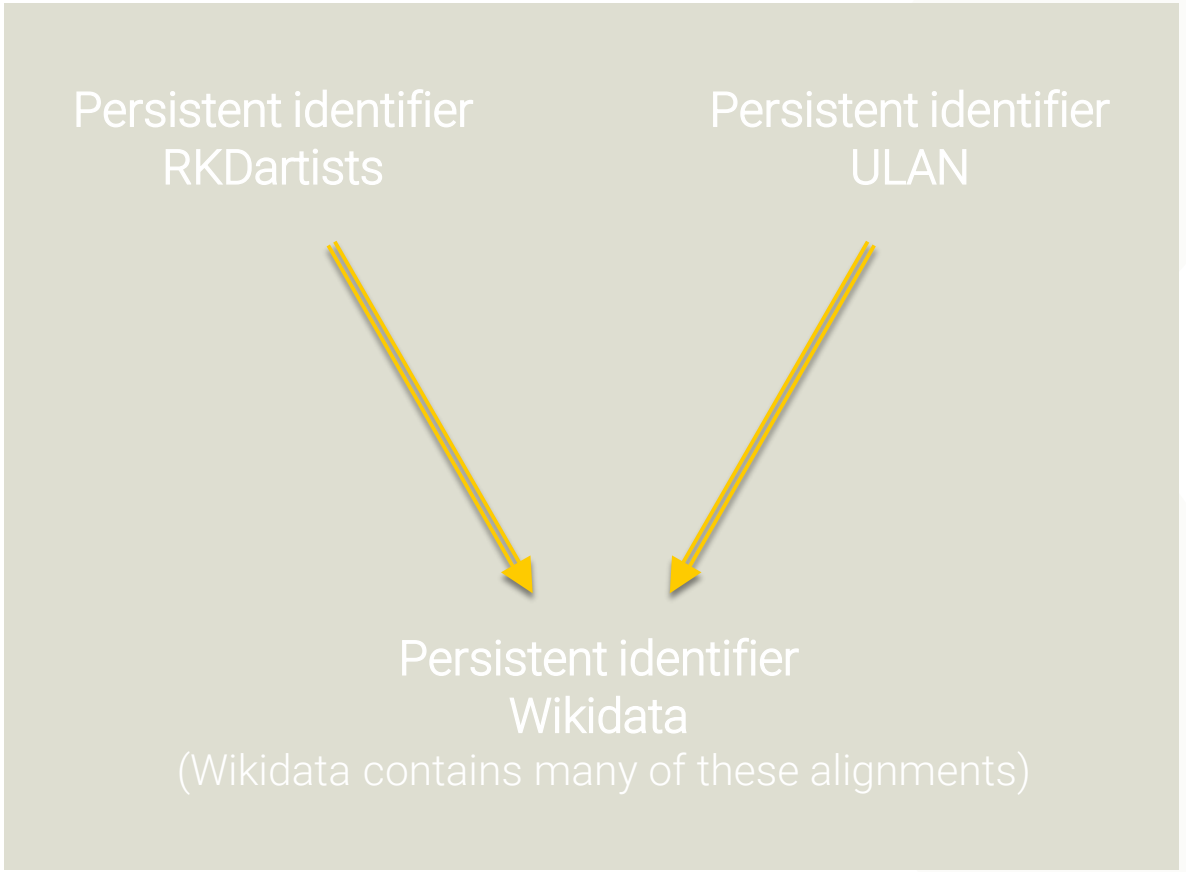
2. Find relevant connections (semi-automatically)

    - *Chose a relevant LOD dataset*
    - *Define a search to derive the relevant connection*
      For instance: give all works of art by an artist; eg Rembrandt

How to connect?

RKDartists is a Named Entity Source for Dutch heritage institutes, but not used internationally.

So, we need to align the RKDartists persistent identifier to the persistent identifier for creator in de LOD source



Wikidata Query Service | Voorbeelden | Hulp | Meer hulpmiddelen | Zoekopdrachtbouwer | Nederlands

```
SELECT DISTINCT ?item ?creatLabel ?titlLabel ?typLabel ?year ?img WHERE {
      # find wikidata identifier for RKDartist identifier 66219 = Rembrandt
      ?artist p:P650 ?statement0.
          ?statement0 (ps:P650) "66219".

      # find works of art in wikidata related to rembrandt as creator
      ?item p:P170 ?statement1.
      ?statement1 (ps:P170/(wdt:P279*)) ?artist.

      OPTIONAL {?item wdt:P170 ?creat }
      OPTIONAL {?item wdt:P1476 ?titl }
      OPTIONAL {?item wdt:P571 ?dat }
      OPTIONAL {?item wdt:P31 ?typ }
      OPTIONAL {?item wdt:P18 ?img }
      BIND(STR(YEAR(?dat)) AS ?year)

      SERVICE wikibase:label { bd:serviceParam wikibase:language "en". }.
}
LIMIT 100000
```

Image grid | **2498 resultaten in 1106 ms** | Code | Downloaden | Koppeling

1655
commons:Rembrandt 2...
Daniel's Vision of the Four ...
print
Rembrandt
wd:Q111821799

1650
commons:Rembrandt - Emperor J...
drawing
Rembrandt
wd:Q112619716

1634
commons:Bust of a Be...
Bust of a Bearded Old Man
painting
Rembrandt
wd:Q112626371

1656
commons:School of Rembra...
Bearded Man in a Fur Hat (Previ...
painting
Gerbrand van den Eeckhout
wd:Q112626733

commons:Rembrandt - Circle of - Abraham's ...
Abrahams offer
drawing
Rembrandt
wd:Q110773704

commons:Landskap med fäste (Rembrandt) - Nationalmuse...
City Gates
drawing
Rembrandt
wd:Q110802068

LOD connection tool

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LOD source	Wikidata	Yale University collections	Other LOD sources
Search pattern	creator	creator	[…]
Search arguments	list of artist names	list of artist names	[…]
Data to be extracted from LOD source	persistent identifier, creator, title, date, collection […]	persistent identifier, creator, title, date, collection […]	[…]
Transformations	to RKDimages	to RKDimages	[…]
Scheduling	once a week	once a year	[…]
Extraction of data to the RKD knowledge graph	mapping: identifier, creator, title, date, collection […]	mapping: identifier, creator, title, date, collection […]	[…]

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Visit us on rkd.nl/en

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