

	<p>Object: Artist Drawing after a Model</p> <p>Museum: Kunsthalle Bremen Am Wall 207 28195 Bremen (04 21) 3 29 08-0 info@kunsthalle-bremen.de</p> <p>Collection: Kupferstichkabinett</p> <p>Inventory number: 7462</p>
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Description

In his studio, the artist has turned away from the easel to draw a female nude. His model holds drapery in one hand, and a palm branch in the other, which is why the scene is regarded as an allegory of the glory of the art of drawing. The subject and technique correspond to each other: Rembrandt portrays the artist as an “inventor” in sketching his pictorial fancy, choosing the medium that would allow for the greatest spontaneity and individual expression in prints of the day. The etching replaced the engraving in the 17th century because—like a pencil—the etching needle could be easily used to attain subtle painterly effects. Rembrandt created around 300 works using this technique, which offered varying possibilities of expression, as this drawing reveals: Rembrandt painstakingly executed the upper half with the easel, the arch, and the bust in etching, whereas the lower half was sketched exclusively in drypoint. This seemingly unfinished work found its buyers, especially since it provided insights into Rembrandt’s working methods. Apparently, he sketched directly, without tracing a preliminary drawing, onto the plate covered with wax, destroying the first spontaneous sketch as he proceeded to work.

Basic data

Material/Technique:	Etching, burin and drypoint
Measurements:	385.0 x 305.0 mm

Events

Printed	When	1639
	Who	Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn (1606-1669)
	Where	

Keywords

- Etching
- Graphics
- Nude
- Palm branch
- Sketch
- Studio