



ART Club
MONTHLY

MARCH 2026

Rembrandt van Rijn

The Night Watch (1642)



THIS MONTH'S CHALLENGE

**"Create a scene with strong light and shadow
inspired by a historical moment!"**

*"Try to put well in practice what you already know; and in so doing,
you will in good time, discover the hidden things you now inquire
about."*

— Rembrandt van Rijn

The Masterpiece



The Night Watch

1642 • Oil on canvas • 363 × 437 cm (12 × 14 feet!) • Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

Surprise! It's Daytime!

This painting isn't actually at night! It got so dark over 400 years from **dirt and old varnish** that people started calling it "The Night Watch." It's really a sunny afternoon!

Action Painting!

This shows a **militia** — like a neighborhood watch team with swords! Instead of standing still for a portrait, Rembrandt painted them **getting ready for action**.

HUGE Canvas!

This painting is **12 feet tall and 14 feet wide** — bigger than most bedrooms! It took Rembrandt almost a whole year to paint it.

Meet the Artist



Rembrandt van Rijn

Dutch Master Painter

July 15, 1606 - October 4, 1669

Known as the "**Master of Light and Shadow**" — Rembrandt could make people in paintings look like they were glowing with real light!

🌟 SUPERPOWER: CHIAROSCURO

Rembrandt mastered a technique called **chiaroscuro** (say: kee-ar-oh-SKOOR-oh) — it means using extreme **light** against **dark** to make things look 3D and dramatic!

🔦 Think of a flashlight in a dark room — that spotlight effect is what Rembrandt painted!

📊 Quick Facts



Born in Leiden Netherlands, 1606



300+ Paintings created



80+ Selfies! Self-portraits painted



Dutch Golden Age Netherlands' richest era

🏠 MILL KID

Rembrandt's dad owned a **windmill**! His full name means "Rembrandt, son of Harmen, from the Rhine River." He grew up watching light stream through mill windows — maybe that's where his light obsession started!

🕒 Rembrandt's Life Timeline

1606

Born in Leiden, Netherlands

1631

Moves to Amsterdam, becomes famous

1642

Paints The Night Watch

1669

Dies in Amsterdam, age 63

🔍 Spotlight Hunt Challenge!

Find these hidden treasures lit up by Rembrandt's magical light:



Mystery Girl Glowing in yellow — who is she?



Dead Chicken On the girl's belt — weird!



The Drummer On the far right



Barking Dog Bottom center — find it!

The Magic of Light & Shadow

Rembrandt was a wizard with light! He could make flat paint look like glowing, 3D people. Here's how he did it — and how YOU can too!



Chiaroscuro = Drama!

Imagine shining a flashlight on someone in a dark room. The brightest parts pop forward, the shadows fade back. Rembrandt painted exactly like this — **bright lights next to deep darks** = WOW factor!



The Dutch Golden Age

Rembrandt lived during the 1600s when the Netherlands was the **richest country in the world!** Rich people wanted fancy portraits, and Rembrandt was the best. He painted kings, merchants, doctors, and even himself — a lot!



Thick Paint Magic

Rembrandt used **impasto** — putting paint on THICK like frosting! The raised bumps catch real light, making shiny things like jewelry and armor actually sparkle. Smart, right?

The Spotlight Effect

See how light creates a cone shape? Rembrandt painted light this way — brightest in the center, fading at the edges. Your glow-in-the-dark paint will help you create this same magical effect!

Rembrandt's Color Secrets



Brown Warm
shadows




Gold Glowing
highlights



Deep Red
Rich clothing



Black Deep
darkness

 **Fun Fact:** Rembrandt painted so many self-portraits (over 80!) that we can see him age from a young man to an old one. He was the original selfie king — 400 years before smartphones!

What's In Your Art Box

 **Canvas Panel (8" × 10")**

 **3 Brushes (large flat, round, detail)**

 **Brown Acrylic Paint**

 **Gold Acrylic Paint**

 **Red Acrylic Paint**

 **Black Acrylic Paint**

 **Glow-in-the-Dark Paint!**

 **Practice paper**

Let's Create Your Masterpiece!

1 Choose your historical moment!

What exciting scene will you paint? A knight? A pirate? Your family? Think of who will be in the "spotlight."

2 Paint the darkness first!

Cover your whole canvas with brown or black paint. Let it dry a bit. This is your "night" background — just like Rembrandt!

3 Add your spotlight!


Where will the light come from? Paint lighter colors (gold, tan) where the light hits. Use your glow paint for extra magic!

4 Build up the layers!

Add your people or objects. Paint the lit parts brighter, leave shadow areas darker. Don't forget — thick paint catches light!

5 Turn off the lights!

Once dry, turn off the lights and watch your glow-in-the-dark highlights shine! Take a photo and share your Rembrandt-style masterpiece!

 **Parent Tip:** The glow-in-the-dark paint needs to "charge" under bright light for 5-10 minutes before it glows. Try a flashlight or lamp!



Share Your Masterpiece!

We can't wait to see your glowing creations! Take a photo in the LIGHT and in the DARK to show off that glow effect!

Tag us on social media!

@ArtClubMonthly

#ArtClubMonthly #MasterOfLight

Instagram • Facebook • TikTok • YouTube



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Want to Learn More?

Visit these museums online to see more of Rembrandt's amazing work:

Rijksmuseum (Amsterdam) • The Met (NYC) • National Gallery (London) • Mauritshuis (The Hague)

"Every shadow needs a light. What will YOUR spotlight reveal?"

— **Art Club Monthly**

