

Is it a Rembrandt?



User's Guide

Is it a Rembrandt? is an interactive multimedia program designed to teach about the complex issues surrounding the attribution of master works, in particular those of the Dutch painter Rembrandt. Users can investigate three different Rembrandtesque paintings to determine their attribution. This program is currently accessible only in Vogelback Lab. For lab hours call 847-491-7130 or visit their web site (<http://www.nwu.edu/at/ctg/labs/vogelback-lab/vogelbacklab.htm>).

Before going to Vogelback Lab. . .

- Plan on spending about two hours to complete the program (your TA may have a sign-up sheet). There will be five Macintosh computers on "priority reserve" for students in the class.
- Bring your **WildCARD** to check out headphones (or bring your own pair). Vogelback lab requires that you use headphones so as not to disturb other lab users.
- **Bring a floppy disk** (formatted for Macintosh) to save your work in case you don't finish.

STARTING *Is it a Rembrandt?*

1. Close all other applications first.
2. To find the "Is it a Rembrandt?" icon, open the "Hard Drive" folder (which is on the desktop), then open the "Rembrandt" folder. Double-click the "Is it a Rembrandt?" icon to start the program. Loading will take less than one minute. You will be asked to either "Start New Investigation" or "Load Previous Investigation." Click the appropriate button.



double-click
this icon

USING *Is it a Rembrandt?*

Two general steps are necessary to complete the program: **Investigate the Painting** and **Decide the Painting's Attribution**. You may also **Ask the Experts** to learn about Rembrandt, connoisseurship and the attribution process.

Investigate The Painting

There are four modes of investigation: **Inspect the painting**, **Compare to Similar Works**, **View Curator's File**, or **Go to the Conservation Lab**. In each of these sections you can click the questions on the left to hear from art experts and to gather evidence. Each time you ask a question, a summary of the expert's answer (an "evidence point") is added to the EVIDENCE box. When you feel you've gathered enough evidence, click DECIDE THE PAINTING'S ATTRIBUTION.



Investigate the Painting ("Inspect")

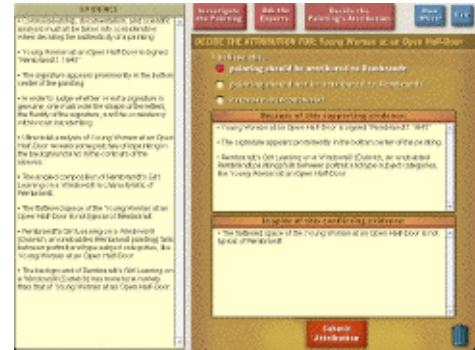
(over)

Decide The Painting's Attribution

Deciding the painting's attribution involves filling out a report in which you must choose from three possible arguments:

1. "I believe the painting should be attributed to Rembrandt."
2. "I believe the painting should NOT be attributed to Rembrandt."
3. "I believe the evidence is inconclusive."

To support your argument you must select and drag evidence points from the EVIDENCE box into the appropriate boxes on the REPORT form. Drag evidence which supports your argument into the "Supporting evidence" box. If you have also discovered evidence which contradicts your argument, drag it into the box labeled: "I've considered this evidence but it doesn't change my argument." When you're done, click SUBMIT REPORT.



Decide the Painting's Attribution

SAVING YOUR WORK

Whenever you exit the program you will have the option to save your work. In the Save dialog box, type in a file name and save it to your own floppy disk. To open your saved file, double-click it.

CHOOSING A DIFFERENT PAINTING WITHOUT EXITING

Currently the only way to switch your investigation mid-stream from the current painting to one of the other two paintings without losing your current work is to exit the program and save a file. However, if you don't mind losing your work on the current painting, you can restart the program without completely exiting. Here's the procedure: press the **⌘ + M** keys on the keyboard to bring up the menubar. Under the "File" menu, choose "Restart GBS." This will start the program from the beginning, allowing you to choose another painting from the gallery screen. You can hide the menubar by pressing the **⌘ + M** keys again.

PROBLEMS?

Report any bugs or errors to rembrandt@ils.nwu.edu, or call Mark Swanson at 847-467-1015.

NOTE: The computer consultants and staff at Vogelback can answer general questions about using the computers in the lab, but will not be able to answer specific questions about using *Is it a Rembrandt?*

Produced by the Institute for the Learning Sciences for Northwestern University, in collaboration with Professor Larry Silver. Visit the **Is it a Rembrandt?** web site: <http://www.ils.nwu.edu/~rembrandt/>
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