

Saskia400

In 2012 it is exactly 400 years ago that the love of Rembrandt's life, Saskia van Uylenburgh, was born. The mayor's daughter was baptized on 02 August 1612 in the Grote Kerk (main church) of Leeuwarden, The Netherlands. In 1634 the still young Frisian woman decided to make the long journey to Amsterdam without the then customary accompaniment of relatives. It was there that Rembrandt deeply fell in love with her. They were engaged soon afterwards. When later on Saskia married the artist in the Frisian village of Sint Annaparochie, she was the only one of her family to do so far below her station. Rembrandt has portrayed Saskia in many different types of attire. She was his muse. Furthermore she knew how to deal with Rembrandt's oftentimes rich clients, something he did not excel at. In doing so she made an important contribution to maintaining the "status quo" of Rembrandt's business. It is no surprise that Rembrandt enjoyed his most productive period during their marriage. While Saskia lay ill he worked on The Night Watch. After her death, Rembrandt ended up in a crisis and went broke. Saskia's portrait hangs in numerous international museums and is counted among the most famous faces in the history of art.



The aim of the Frisian Cultural Commemorations Foundation is to extensively celebrate the year 2012 as being the 400th birth year of Saskia van Uylenburgh, in close cooperation with the Leeuwarden Historic Center (HCL). The time has come to pull Saskia out of Rembrandt's shadow.

The master himself was the focal point in the Rembrandt Year. In 2012 we place the spotlight on his beloved Saskia because, according to authors like Chr. Driessen, she has been of significant value to Rembrandt the man as well as his art.

After the kick-off in Amsterdam on March 8th during the Sun Breakfast in the Oude Kerk (Old Church), where Saskia is buried, all other activities this year will be held in Fryslân (Friesland), culminating in the Saskia Celebration on 13 October 2012 in Leeuwarden, the city where she was born.

Here you can read what else is on the agenda this year.

Don't hesitate to visit any or all of the activities.

Are you yourself in possession of the charming name Saskia? The name means 'protector of humanity'. Find out what we have planned for you (see the heading 1000-and-1 Saskia's).

On behalf of the Frisian Cultural Commemorations Foundation, organizer of Saskia400: Peter de Haan, info@saskia400.nl, phone (+31) 611592427.

Activity overview

Saskia Celebration 13/10
Exhibition HCL
Saskia in St. Annaparochie
1000-and-1 Saskia's
The Golden Thread project
Frisian artists
Poetry competition
The Sun Breakfast
Other

Contact

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