

Major Special Exhibition 2020

Peter Paul Rubens and the Northern Baroque

Paderborn's Diocesan Museum is planning an exhibition about the High Baroque and its Flemish influences
29 May – 25 October 2020



Bust of a sainted bishop, circle of Ludovicus Willemssens, Antwerp, 2nd half of 17th century

Monumental figures with impressive presence, grand gestures, delicate sentiments, dynamic compositions of vibrant colour and opulent sensuality: these are the qualities associated with the art of Peter Paul Rubens (1577–1640), the foremost master of the Flemish Baroque. His multifaceted work, his impact on the painters and sculptors in his circle, and the legacy of his art transformed Antwerp into an artistic powerhouse that had a lasting influence on the painting and sculpture of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in large parts of central and northern Europe.

With the exhibition *Peter Paul Rubens and the Northern Baroque*, scheduled to run from 29 May to 25 October 2020, Paderborn's Diocesan Museum once again focuses on the history of art and culture as it spotlights this great artist and his wide-ranging influence. The innovations that the Flemish High Baroque introduced into the imagery and architecture of the seventeenth century also made themselves felt in Paderborn, where the cathedral was refurbished with altar paintings and sculptures by Antwerp artists in the High Baroque style. Taking this as its starting point, the exhibition shows how the pioneering new forms gained currency far beyond the borders of the Southern Netherlands.

Superb exhibits from international museums including sculptures, paintings, drawings, and the reproductive prints that contributed to the transmission of the new formal inventions, as well as virtual reconstructions of lost works, illustrate the creativity and productivity of the great masters of that time. Models and oil sketches shed light on the artists' production processes and the inspirations spawned by this fascinating era.

The *Baroque* exhibition will be accompanied by an extensive programme of tours and activities for the entire family.