

## COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

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# **Fleur Pellerin, Minister of Culture and Communication, and her counterpart Jet Bussemaker, Minister of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands, sign a historical intergovernmental agreement sealing the joint acquisition of Rembrandt's two masterpieces, Portrait of Maerten Soolmans, and Portrait of Oopjen Coppit, wife of Maerten Soolmans.**

The two paintings will be presented to the public for the first time in a few weeks at the Louvre, before joining the Netherlands, where will start, after their restoration, their exhibition alternatively in Paris and Amsterdam.

Through this pioneering partnership, the governments of France and the Netherlands ensure that the pair, which Rembrandt painted in 1634, will remain together forever. The portraits of Maerten Soolmans and Oopjen Coppit, respectively owned by the Netherlands and France, will be shown together and in turn at the Louvre and the Rijksmuseum, joining two of the greatest public collections worldwide.

The two paintings, both exceptional masterpieces by the foremost artist of the Dutch Golden Age, have spent the last hundred and forty years in France, and showcase the depth of cultural ties between the two countries. Born out of an innovative partnership by which the two countries each bought one half of the pair to unite them permanently, this joint acquisition emphasizes the shared ambition by France and the Netherlands for a cultural Europe, building on its shared and universal heritage.

The acquisition of Oopjen Coppit, the highest purchase ever by a French museum, was made possible through the sponsorship of the Banque de France, whom the minister thanks for its unwavering support.

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