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Newly Discovered Rubens Painting Sells for \$5.1 Million During Sotheby's Masters Week

It was the top lot in Sotheby's \$31.8 million sale.

Sarah Cascone, January 30, 2017



Peter Paul Rubens, *Study of a Horse with a Rider*. Courtesy Sotheby's.

A newly discovered Peter Paul Rubens canvas was the highlight of Sotheby's Masters Week in New York, fetching \$5.1 million at the January 25 evening sale of "Master Paintings & Sculpture."

Until recently, the canvas, a rare large-scale study of an animal by the Flemish artist, had been attributed to a follower of Anthony van Dyck. The painting's true authorship came to light when details added later to the unfinished work were removed, revealing Study of a Horse to be, according to the catalogue, "a typical

example of the spirited and rapidly painted oil sketches—seemingly ‘drawn by the brush’—for which Rubens is so celebrated.”



In its unrestored condition, the painting featured a yellow jacket, a hat reminiscent of that of an American cowboy, and a French Impressionist-style landscape likely added in the mid-to-late 19th century. It was probably first executed in the early 1610s, and the new attribution has been confirmed by Ben van Beneden, director of the [Rubenshuis](#) museum, and Arnout Balis, director of the [Rubenianum](#).