

# DIGITAL **AGNES**

Agnes Etherington Art Centre at Queen's University  
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## **Exploring form and pose with Rembrandt**

AGNES Learns  
2020

### **SPEAKERS**

Charlotte Gagnier

### **KEYWORDS**

Rembrandt, Portraiture, Dutch Golden Age, Grade 4-6, Agnes Learns, School Resource, Children's Education

### **TRANSCRIPT**

**Charlotte Gagnier:** This portrait was painted by a famous artist named Rembrandt van Rijn, but usually people just call him Rembrandt. He painted it in 1658, that's over 360 years ago. The painting is titled Portrait of a Man with Arms Akimbo. Arms akimbo describes his pose, the way he's standing with his hands on his hips. It makes him appear large and important. People say this painting looks very lifelike. What do you think? To me, it almost looks like a photograph. One reason it seems so realistic is the way Rembrandt painted the light and shadow. In fact, Rembrandt was famous for this. It looks like there's a spotlight on the man coming from the top left corner. The light makes certain things stand out, like his shoulder, his hand, and on his face, his forehead and the tip of his nose even look a bit shiny. These bright parts look a lot closer to us than his other arm, his shoulder, and cheek, which are in shadow. The light and shadow help give the man a form. It looks like you could even reach out and touch his jacket. Another word to describe this is that he looks three-dimensional or 3D. This way of painting light and shadow is a technique called chiaroscuro.