

= Rembrandt (horse) =

Rembrandt (15 March 1977 ? 30 October 2001) was a dark bay Westphalian gelding ridden for Germany by Nicole Uphoff in dressage competitions . Together , the pair won four Olympic gold medals , three gold and one silver World Equestrian Games medals , and numerous other international championships . Although known as a sensitive horse prone to spookiness , Rembrandt 's elegance and expression in the ring allowed him to become one of the top horses in the sport of dressage .

= = Early life = =

Rembrandt was foaled in 1977 by Herbert de Baey . His sire was Romadour II , a famous Westphalian stallion during the 1970s , and his dam was Adone , full sister to Ahlerich , a multiple Olympic medal winning dressage horse under German rider Reiner Klimke . Due to his Thoroughbred @-@ like appearance , several riders passed over a chance to purchase the gelding as a youngster . In 1981 , he was purchased by Nicole Uphoff 's father , Jürgen Uphoff , as a mount for his then @-@ 14 @-@ year @-@ old daughter . Rembrandt was too much for her , however , and he was sent to train with Klaus Balkenhol , a noted trainer who saw his potential and advised the Uphoffs to keep the horse , despite his spookiness and sensitivity .

= = Competitive career = =

In 1985 , Rembrandt and Uphoff began to compete at events for young riders , and in 1986 , the pair began working with Uwe Schulten @-@ Baumer , a well @-@ known dressage coach . In 1987 , the pair began to compete , and win , at the international level . They rose to the top of the dressage world with unheard @-@ of speed , due to Rembrandt 's elegance and expression in the ring . Their rise to fame resulted in a 1988 Olympic nomination . Uphoff switched trainers four months before the Games began , leaving Schulten @-@ Baumer to work with Harry Boldt , the German national coach .

Rembrandt and Uphoff were Olympic Champions twice , in 1988 in Seoul and 1992 in Barcelona . Both times they took both individual gold and a gold medal with the German team . The Barcelona games resulted in Rembrandt being titled a " living work of art " by one German sports commentator . During the last two years of his career , Rembrandt began to decline slightly , and he missed the team nomination to the 1996 Summer Olympics . Uphoff used her right as defending champion to compete as an individual , and they were again part of the German team in Atlanta , where the pair eventually placed 14th . This placement was despite being pulled from competition before the last round , due to an injury , at which point he was in 8th place . Rembrandt and Uphoff took both individual and team gold at the first World Equestrian Games in 1990 . In 1993 , he was injured by a kick from another horse during a victory lap at the German Championships , but recovered from the blow to take individual silver at the 1994 World Equestrian Games . The German team , including Uphoff , again took gold .

Rembrandt and Uphoff also competed at many other international @-@ level events . In 1989 , Rembrandt made his European Dressage Championships debut at Mondorf , Luxembourg , where they took both individual and team gold . It was the first time that the gold @-@ medal winning German team (which had also won the previous 12 team golds) had been made up of four female riders . In 1991 , at the Championships in Donaueschingen , Germany , the pair took silver in the Grand Prix Special , while again riding to gold as part of the German team . The silver medal was the first defeat in three years for the pair , and was dealt by another Schulten @-@ Baumer student , Isabell Werth on Gigolo FRH . At the 1995 Championships , held in Mondorf , Luxembourg , Rembrandt again assisted the German team to a gold medal , while taking 5th individually . The pair also won seven times at the Stuttgart German Masters international show , the last in 1995 . This was a record number of wins until 2010 , when Werth won for an eighth time , and Uphoff remains the only rider to have won seven masters titles on a single horse (Werth rode three different horses

to her eight victories) .

= = Later life and legacy = =

In 1996 , Rembrandt and Uphoff gave a farewell show at his official retirement at the Stuttgart Indoor Show . He spent the rest of his life at Uphoff 's farm . On October 30 , 2001 , he was euthanized after his health deteriorated quickly and he was unable to rise .

Rembrandt 's transitions , particularly from passage to extended trot back to passage , have been called " unequalled " . He was also known for his spookiness , however , to the point that crowds hushed themselves when he was performing . He is known as a " legendary " dressage horse , and mounted upon Rembrandt , Nicole Uphoff pioneered an era of female @-@ dominated dressage competitions .

In 2009 , Uphoff donated Rembrandt 's saddle to the equestrian museum at CHIO Aachen in Germany .