

THE ART OF  
RENAISSANCE EUROPE  
A RESOURCE FOR EDUCATORS

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

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Image on box:

*The Story of Esther*, ca. 1460–70

Marco del Buono Giamberti, Florentine, 1402–1489.

Apollonio di Giovanni di Tomaso, Florentine,

1415/17–1465. Tempera and gold on wood;

17 1/2 x 55 3/8 in. Rogers Fund 1918 (18.117.2)

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# FOREWORD

We invite you to enter the world of the Renaissance in Europe, a time of great discovery and achievement in art, science, music, and literature. The richness and diversity of Renaissance art is represented in many different departments at The Metropolitan Museum of Art: in Arms and Armor, European Paintings, European Sculpture and Decorative Arts, Musical Instruments, Prints and Drawings, and the Robert Lehman Collection. The art selected for these teacher materials includes paintings, ceramics, armor, musical instruments, and sculpture that embody the Renaissance interest in classical learning, fame and human achievement, and beautiful objects.

Through the art of the Renaissance your students will discover the great cities of Florence, Bruges, London, and Toledo, and meet the powerful personalities of Michelangelo, Lorenzo de' Medici, Desiderius Erasmus, and Eleanora d'Este. By studying the human body, gesture, and narrative, students will work as Renaissance artists did when they created paintings and drawings. By studying perspective, students will explore the Renaissance interest in science and mathematics. Through language arts activities based on Renaissance poetic forms, students will write about their response to art. The activities and lesson plans are designed for a variety of classroom needs, and we encourage you to adapt these materials to your own curriculum, to approach them in an interdisciplinary fashion, and to let students choose topics for independent study from the extensions and connections. If possible, a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art will be the highlight of your students' encounter with the Renaissance.

This teacher resource is supported by a generous grant from Mr. and Mrs. Frederick P. Rose, who share our commitment to teachers. It has been tested through focus groups, surveys, input from New York teachers, and consultations with educators throughout the country. The Museum's internet site at [www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org) will supplement the slides, texts, posters, CD-ROM, and activities of this resource.

Philippe de Montebello  
Director and Chief Executive Officer

Kent Lydecker  
Associate Director for Education

# HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

The Art of the Renaissance presents selected works of art from the collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art. This teacher packet is a visual guide to the works of art and a resource for curriculum development. Rather than providing a curriculum, it will give you the tools to create teaching units based on your own understanding of the Renaissance. In this way, you can meet the interests and needs of your specific students, and you can adjust your plans to the time available—whether it is an hour, a week, or an entire semester.

## TIMELINE

PP. 7–8

We suggest you begin by looking at the timeline, in which thirty works of art appear chronologically. This visual reference allows you to see quickly the range of subject matter and the development of aesthetic ideas within the time frame of the Renaissance.

## INTRODUCTION

P. 9

This is a general introduction to the art of the Renaissance and the world in which it was produced.

## SLIDE ENTRIES

P. 17

Each slide entry presents a way of looking at the individual work of art and information about it. At the end of each entry, a list of THEMATIC CONNECTIONS opens avenues for inquiry and discussion.

## RENAISSANCE SOURCE MATERIAL

P. 79

This selection of original texts from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries includes letters and contracts between patrons and artists, family letters, descriptions of events, and philosophical writings. These sources provide a cultural context for the works of art.

## PLANNING YOUR LESSON

P. 95

This section is designed with the teacher in mind. Reading through this section will assist you in planning your lessons.

### 1. QUESTIONING STRATEGIES FOR TEACHERS

This exercise provides you with a method of looking at a Renaissance work of art before you introduce it to your students in your individual curriculum. The questions will help you explore the work as a primary resource.

### 2. AN INTERACTIVE APPROACH TO THE USE OF SLIDES

This section provides two activities to introduce slides in your classroom.

### 3. THE SHORT LIST

These works of art have been selected for the junior high and high school teachers who have limited time. With these slides, teachers can present the art of the Renaissance to enhance a social studies, humanities, history, or art class.