



Smithsonian Associates

Pieter Bruegel the Elder: Humor and Humanism

Dr. Aneta Georgievska-Shine

Friday, August 11, 2023 - 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET

The great 16th-century Flemish painter Pieter Bruegel the Elder (ca. 1525-1569) may be best remembered as one of the pioneers of genre scenes in Renaissance art. However, this master of the ordinary, especially of scenes inspired by peasant life, was steeped in the humanist culture of his era. His wonderful inventiveness and wit are reflected throughout his oeuvre—where almost every painting becomes a point of departure for a deeper philosophical consideration.

Pieter Bruegel, The Nest Robber, 1568

Ian Bullart, engraved portrait of Bruegel, 1682

Anthony van Dyck, Portrait of Pieter Brueghel the Younger, Iconography, ca. 1630

Pieter Brueghel the Younger, Copy after The Preaching of John the Baptist, 1616, Groeningen

Peter Paul Rubens, Jan Brueghel the Elder and his Family, ca. 1616

Jan Brueghel the Elder, Flowers in a Wooden Vessel, 1603, Vienna

Pieter Bruegel, A Pig has to go to a Sty, 1557 (earliest genre scene)

Pieter Bruegel, Twelve Proverbs, 1558-60, Museum Meyer van der Bergh, Antwerp

Pieter Bruegel, Netherlandish Proverbs, 1559, Berlin

Anonymous, Portrait of Bosch, pencil, Arras

Bosch, The Seven deadly Sins, ca. 1480, Prado

Bosch, Extraction of the Cure of Madness, ca. 1475-80, Prado

Bosch, Garden of Earthly Delights, ca. 1510, Prado

Pieter Bruegel, The Battle between Carnival and Lent, 1559, Vienna

Pieter Bruegel, The Beggars, 1568, Louvre

Pieter Bruegel, Children's Games, ca. 1559, Vienna

Pieter Bruegel, Blind leading the Blind, 1568, Naples

Pieter Bruegel, Harvest (Summer), 1565, NY, MET

Pieter Bruegel, Gloomy Day (Fall), 1565, Vienna

Pieter Bruegel, Return of the Hunters (Winter), 1565, Vienna

Pieter Bruegel, Peasant Wedding, ca. 1568, Vienna
Pieter Bruegel, Landscape with Flight into Egypt, 1563, Courtauld Institute
Pieter Bruegel, Christ carrying the Cross, 1564, Vienna
Pieter Bruegel, Landscape with the Fall of Icarus, ca. 1558, Brussels
Braun and Hogenberg, Gulf of Gaeta (Hoefnagel and Ortelius)
Rubens, Abraham Ortelius, 1633, Plantin-Moretus Museum, Antwerp
Rubens, Christophe Plantin, 1616, Plantin-Moretus Museum, Antwerp
Pieter Bruegel, The Fall of the Rebel Angels, 1562, Brussels
Pieter Bruegel, The Tower of Babel, 1563, Vienna
Pieter Bruegel, Two Monkeys, 1562, Berlin
Pieter Bruegel, The Misanthrope, 1568, Naples

Resources:

Complete works: <https://www.pieterbruegel.net/>

Excellent article by Margaret Sullivan: <https://jhna.org/articles/peasant-nestrobber-bruegel-witness-of-his-times/>

Introductory chapter to an excellent book on Bruegel (E. M. Kavalier):

<http://catdir.loc.gov/catdir/samples/cam032/98029502.pdf>

Lucian of Samostata <https://lucianofsamosata.info/>

Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Brussels, web feature: *The Artist and his Art*

<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/0wLSR15NPP5yIg>

Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Brussels, web feature: *The Census at Bethlehem*

<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/zQKyGcrY3z1hKQ>

Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Brussels, web feature: *In the artist's footsteps*

<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/VALizR6s-EmxIA>

Gemaldegalerie, Berlin, web feature on *The Netherlandish Proverbs*

<https://artsandculture.google.com/story/OgKCUshOXLXIQ>

Contact: anetagshine@umd.edu