

ARTSTOR

ARTSTOR INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTSTOR RESOURCES IN RENAISSANCE STUDIES

The ARTstor Digital Library is a visual resource of value to scholars, teachers, and students across the arts, humanities, social sciences, and beyond. This handout is part of a growing series designed to highlight ARTstor's relevance to a variety of fields of study.

ARTSTOR COLLECTIONS RELEVANT TO RENAISSANCE STUDIES



Several ARTstor collections will be of interest to scholars, teachers, and students in Renaissance Studies. Key works of Renaissance art – including many illustrated in standard survey texts of Western art history – may be found in the Art History Survey Collection. The Illustrated Bartsch, a digital version of the 96-volume corpus of Old Master prints, offers an overview of the visual culture in Europe from the 15th to the early 19th century, with special strengths in the Renaissance and Reformation eras. The Hartill Archive of Architectural and Allied Arts includes hundreds of images of the architecture and architectural sculpture and decoration of Renaissance Europe. Contemporary views of many monuments of Renaissance architecture are also available as Quick Time Virtual Reality files, from the Columbia University collection of QTVR Panoramas of World Architecture, which allow users to view these structures in 360 degrees from different vantage points.

ARTstor's encyclopedic Image Gallery offers innumerable images of Renaissance art and architecture, as well as images documenting the Classical heritage of Renaissance Europe and significant figures in its cultural history. Other relevant specialized collections include:

- ❖ Italian and other European Art from the Scala Archives, drawn from a legendary archive that documents the artistic heritage of Italy and Europe from antiquity to the 20th century, with special strengths in the art and architecture of the Italian Renaissance
- ❖ Art, Archeology and Architecture from the Erich Lessing Culture and Fine Arts Archives, which focuses on key European artists and collections of major European museums outside of Italy
- ❖ The Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise Collection, containing images of the recently restored bronze panels and frieze elements created by Lorenzo Ghiberti for the East doors of the Florentine Baptistery, as well as the competition panels produced for an earlier commission in 1401-02 by Ghiberti and his rival, Filippo Brunelleschi
- ❖ The Foto Reali Archive from the National Gallery of Art, digitized from the archive of the Florentine photographic firm that surveyed private art collections and dealer inventories in Italy in the early 20th century, with a special focus on Italian Renaissance painting

- ❖ The Sansoni Archive from the Frick Art Reference Library, digital reproductions of large-format glass plate negatives produced in the early 20th century, which document fresco cycles and other forms of architectural decoration throughout Italy
- ❖ The Illuminated Manuscript Collection from Princeton University Library, an assemblage of illuminated leaves from the library's collection Medieval and Renaissance manuscripts
- ❖ Manuscripts and Early Printed Books from the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, a project to digitize virtually all of the library's illuminated manuscript leaves through the 16th century
- ❖ Architecture of Venice from the photographic archive of Sarah Quill, who has been documenting the buildings and civic life of Venice for over 30 years
- ❖ The Vesalius Anatomical Illustrations, provided through a partnership with Daniel Garrison at Northwestern University, constitute a digital version of Andreas Vesalius's pioneering treatise on human anatomy (*De humani corporis fabrica*, first published in 1543)
- ❖ Study Photographs of Tapestries from the Getty Research Institute's Photo Study Collection, mainly based on the French & Company dealer archive, and containing examples of Medieval and Early Modern European tapestries

The Digital Library is constantly growing and adding to its holdings in Renaissance art and architecture. Among forthcoming collections, especially noteworthy are:

- ❖ A partnership with the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, which will result in a virtual collection of the approximately 1,200 Italian and other Old Master paintings from the former Kress Collection, now distributed among 41 museums throughout the United States
- ❖ A project to digitize the 184,000 Old Master drawings in the Gernsheim Photographic Corpus of Drawings, which is especially rich in Renaissance drawings

HELPFUL SEARCH TIPS

Keyword searches are likely to be most successful. Truncating your search term in order to retrieve terms with variant endings will enlarge your search results. For more precise searches, you can search for phrases in quotation marks ("..."), or use the Advanced Search feature to limit your searches by date or geographic region.

- ❖ A search for "erasmus" yields over 130 images
- ❖ Searching for "vasari" produces more than 230 results
- ❖ "michelangelo" or "raphael" will both return more than 1000 images each

HELPFUL BROWSING CATEGORIES

ARTstor's collections may be browsed in a number of ways. For instance, the Art History Survey Collection may be browsed by stylistic period, region, and/or medium – e.g. "Italian Renaissance Art and Architecture" or "Northern Europe: 15th and 16th Centuries." Similarly, the Hartill Archive of Architecture and Allied Arts may be browsed by period and country. You may also browse across all of ARTstor's collections by geography or object classification, so that those specializing in specific areas within Renaissance Studies may access images relevant to their primary interests. For example, you can browse ARTstor for "Paintings" and then expand that browsing category to narrow the set down to "Netherlands." Alternatively, you can start by browsing geographically first, such as selecting "Italy" or "Germany" from a controlled list of countries, and then choosing the category for "Manuscripts and Manuscript Illuminations."

Image Credits:

- 1) Judith with Her Maidservant: detail, ca. 1613-1614 | Artemisia Gentileschi, Italian, 1593-1651/1653 | Palazzo Pitti
- 2) Study for the Portrait of Cosimo I de' Medici: Halberdier, 16th century | Jacopo Carucci Pontormo, Italian, 1494-1557 | The Image Gallery
- 3) Portrait of the Duke and Duchess of Urbino, after 1472 | Piero della Francesca, Italian, ca. 1415-1492 | Galleria degli Uffizi
- 4) Dance of Death: Abbott, 1525 | Hans Holbein, German, 1497/1498-1543 | The Image Gallery