



Artist & Composer Study

This session's featured artist is Albrecht Dürer. We've included six art selections for your kids and teens to use for picture study. They are:

- *Portrait of Emperor Maximilian I*
- *Portrait of a Venetian Woman*
- *Young Hare*
- *The Rhinoceros*
- *Feast of the Rose Garlands*
- *Adoration of the Trinity*

This session's featured composer is Tomás Luis de Victoria. We have included six of his pieces for music study. They are:

- *O Magnum Mysterium*
- *Tenebrae Responsories, Part One*
- *Tenebrae Responsories, Part Two*
- *Requiem Mass, 1605*
- *Requiem: Missa Pro Defunctis, Part One*
- *Requiem: Missa Pro Defunctis, Part Two*

“Art is embedded in nature and they who can extract it, have it.”

~ Albrecht Dürer

Artist & Composer Study



Albrecht Dürer

May 21, 1471 - April 6, 1528

Albrecht Dürer was born in Nuremberg, Germany, on May 21, 1471. He was apprenticed to his father, a goldsmith, when he was very young, but his true desire was to be an artist.

At the age of 13, Albrecht became the first artist to create a “self-portrait.” He used a mirror as he worked to see his reflection and create an accurate rendering of himself, becoming the first of four self-portraits Dürer would produce.

Just a few years later, at 15, he was apprenticed to Michael Wolgemut, a famous artist in his hometown.

Wolgemut specialized in creating woodcuts for prints to illustrate books, and his teaching would help Dürer gain a foundation for his lifelong passion.

In 1494, at the age of 22, Albrecht married Agnes Frey. It was most likely an arranged marriage without any emotional attachment, but they eventually developed a mutual affection for one another. Sadly, they never had any children. Not too long after his marriage, Albrecht went on his first trip to Venice in order to learn from the Italian Renaissance masters. There, for the first time in his life, he became acquainted with some of the greatest artists of all time and was able to learn about classical art and study theories of proportion and perspective.

In 1495, Dürer set up his own workshop in Nuremberg, where he specialized in producing high-quality prints with his innovative woodcutting techniques. His works showed a strong Italian influence. From 1505 through 1507, he visited Venice for a second time, studying more about art theory, learning new print-making techniques, and getting fresh inspiration. Dürer greatly admired Leonardo da Vinci and was intrigued by his studies of the human figure. He applied and adapted Da Vinci’s proportions to his own drawings, which he later published along with other ideas on art theory.

Dürer's woodcuts were seen by the Holy Roman Emperor, Maximilian I, who became his patron in 1512. Dürer was even asked to paint a portrait of the emperor and later the famed humanist Erasmus, both major accomplishments for the artist. One of his most popular woodcuts from this era is his famous *Rhinoceros* woodcut, created in 1515. From the lifelike details such as the thick, muscular body and distinctive horn, one would assume he had created it from observing the animal in person. However, Dürer had never actually seen a rhinoceros before. Instead, he relied on written descriptions of the animal and a rough sketch.

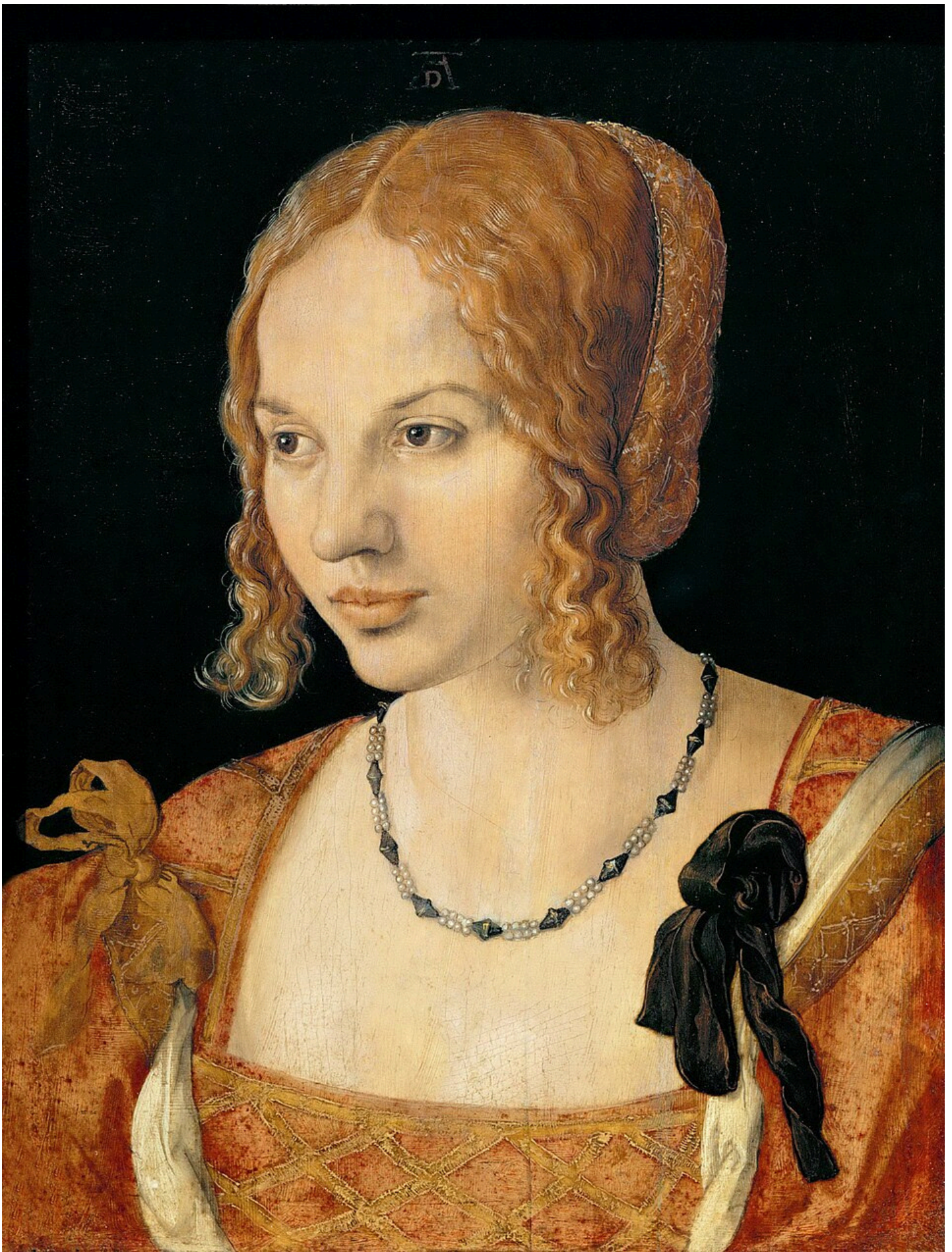
Using these secondhand details, he created a powerful image of a rhino covered in what looks like armor plates, complete with a small horn on its back that real rhinos do not have. Although the image was not accurate, it was so detailed and convincing that people believed it for centuries. Dürer's rhinoceros became the standard image of the animal in Europe until living rhinos were more commonly seen, showing the extent of his influence.

Albrecht Dürer set high artistic standards for himself and excelled in every medium he utilized: drawing, painting, and printing. He gave great attention to detail and realism in all his works, but it was his prints that made him famous throughout Europe. Dürer was a master draftsman, watercolorist, oil painter, and engraver, though sadly, only about sixty of his oil paintings still exist today. He was not just an artist, however; he was also a theorist and mathematician who wrote influential books on geometry, city fortification, and human proportions. Albrecht Dürer died on April 6, 1528, at the age of 56, and is considered today to be the greatest printmaker of all time.



POTENTISSIMVS · MAXIMVS · ET · INVICTISSIMVS · CÆSAR · MAXIMILIANVS
QVI · CVNCTOS · SVI · TEMPORIS · REGES · ET · PRINCIPES · IYSTICIA · PRVDENCIA
MAGNANIMITATE · LIBERALITATE · PRÆCIPVE · VERO · BELLICA · LAVDE · ET
ANIMI · FORTIDVDINE · SVPERAVIT · NATVS · EST · ANNO · SALVTIS · HVMANÆ
M · CCCC · LIX · DIE · MARCII · IX · VIXIT · ANNOS · LIX · MENSES · IX · DIES · XXV
DECESSIT · VERO · ANNO · M · D · XIX · MENSIS · IANVARIJ · DIE · XII · QVEM · DEVS
OPT · MAX · IN · NVMERVM · VIVENCIVM · REFERRE · VELIT ·

Portrait of Emperor Maximilian I



Portrait of a Venetian Woman



Young Hare

Nach Christens gepurt. 1513. Jar. 28. i. May. Sat man dem grosnechtigen Künig von Portugal Emanuel gen Lysabona pracht auf India/ ein sollich lebendig Thier. Das nennen sie Rhinocerus. Das ist hie mit aller feiner gest. als 26. conberstet. Es hat ein fars wie ein gespreckte Schildkröt. Und ist vö dicken Schalen vberlegt fast fest. Und ist in der gröp als der Hefande Aber nydrechtiger von paynen/ vnd fast weh afftig. Es hat ein scharff kancf von vorn auff der nase/ Das beghydt es als bey stramen ist. Das dosig Thier ist des Hef fangz to de feynde. Der Hef fande furcht es fast vbel/ dann wo es in antumbe/ so laufft im das Thier mit dem kopff zwischen dye foderen payn/ vnd reyst den Hef fande vnden am pauch auff vil erwüigt. In des mag er sich mit erweem. Dann das Thier ist also gewapent/ das in der Hef fande nichts kan thün. Sie sagen auch das der Rhinocerus Schnell/ Straydig vnd Listig sey.

1515

RHINOCERVS

TA



The Rhinoceros



Feast of the Rose Garlands



Adoration of the Trinity

Picture Study

Title: _____

Date Created: _____

Art Mediums Used: _____

Further Study: _____

Use the box to draw a picture inspired by this artwork.

