

An aerial photograph of a mountain range with dense green forests. A valley with a winding road is visible in the lower half of the image. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

European Masters

Jan Van Eyck

Study*ladder*

Jan Van Eyck

(Also known as Johannes de Eyck)

Born: before 1395

Died: 9 July 1441

Style: Flemish Renaissance



Jan Van Eyck was a Dutch master painter who experimented with different methods of painting with oil paints.

He was the leading painter of his day and was employed as the Royal Court painter. He also painted portraits for private clients among the aristocracy.

Some of his work has been lost over time but a small number have survived and are displayed in museums throughout the world.

Jan Van Eyck

Madonna of Chancellor Rolin



Date Completed: 1432

Medium: Oil on wood

Dimensions: 26.5 cm × 19.5 cm (10.4 in × 7.7 in)

Location: The Louvre Museum, Paris, France

This painting was painted for Nicolas Rolin, the Chancellor of Burgundy. Van Eyck has painted Rolin on the left of the painting with the Madonna on the right.

It is thought that Van Eyck may have painted himself, standing with his assistant, in the distance at the center of the painting.

Jan Van Eyck

Portrait of Jan de Leeuw

Completed: 1436

Medium: Oil on panel.

Dimensions: 24.5 x 19 cm (9.6 x 7.5 in)

Located: Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria



Jan de Leeuw was a wealthy gold and silver smith in the town of Bruges where Jan Van Eyck lived and painted during the early 1400s.

This portrait, painted by Van Eyck in 1436, shows the craftsman holding a ring in his hand - perhaps as a reference to his career and to show that he is an important figure.

Jan Van Eyck

Portrait of Margaretha van Eyck

Completed: 1439

Medium: Oil on wood

Dimensions: 32.6 x 25.8 cm (12.8 x 10.2 in)

Located: Groeningemuseum, Bruges, Belgium



Jan Van Eyck painted this picture of his wife Margaretha in 1439. The meticulous brush strokes, colors and composition are typical of his style.

It is interesting to see detailed medieval costuming in this painting, particularly the horned headdress and lacy edged linen veil. This style was very popular at the time.